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News trade distribution: Comag. Telephone: 0895-444055

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REGU

Final Front Ear GOTO 8 Rom and Ram **GOTO 11** Gadget Shop **GOTO 14** Safe Scientist **GOTO 18 How a Computer Works GOTO 20 Keyboard Kapers GOTO 27** Logo Lowdown **GOTO 35**

LET'S COMPUTE! October 1990 3

I have discovered a bug in the Gingerbread roms program. I typed it in on my BBC Micro exactly as it is shown.

But I received the error message: Mistake at line 260. When I examined that line I discovered that the command IF had been left out.

The corrected line is:

IF r<1 THEN PRINT ;"Three quarters";:RETURN

Matthew Thompson (16).
 Kidlington, Oxford.

We're sorry the word was missed. The listings are all well checked before printing but we missed that one.

We're stepping up up our testing to ensure it doesn't happen again.



If you have any tips for other readers, send them in. If you have any questions about your computer or software just ask us. We'll try to answer them on the Noticeboard.

Let us know what you want to see in future issues. And if we use your letter or ideas we'll send you a Let's Compute! baseball hat!

Send your letters to Let's Compute! Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Remember to tell us your age.

The second issue of Let's Compute! was great. Even better than the first. And that's high praise indeed!

I like the electronic game in The Gadget Shop. We had one at our summer fair, and there's one at the Science Museum in London. I can do all three of them.

The pictures in Al's Gorithms are really sweet. It's amazing what you can do with circles.

The Back to the Future program is really useful. I always want to know what day things are on, whether I've got a piano lesson on my birthday and so on.

The program now does it for me. I don't need to look at the calendar any more.

And what about the football bit? It is probably interesting if you're interested in football. But I'm not.

Finally, I think the competitions are great. Let's have even more!

- Kathryn Price (12), Alfreton, Derbyshire.

Alphabet Artist contest are still pouring in. But there's still time for you to send yours before November 30.

The picture of

Entries for the

Churchill shown here is by Martin Pegg (13) from Derby. He's just one of this month's five lucky winners

who'll be receiving a copy of Art Studio from Impact Software.

This month's other four winners are:

John Pearce (15) from Knaphill,

Surrey - a Spitfire
Owen Williams (12), Halstead,

Essex - a helicopter Richard Gubbing (10), Congleton,

Cheshire - Fat puss the cat Gemma Hillman (7), Loughborough, Leics - a dog

Don't forget, there are lots more prizes to give away: A voucher worth £50 for the overall winner to spend as you wish and TWENTY more vouchers worth £5 each for the next 20 best.

Impact are also presenting £100 for the best picture received with a school name on the entry form. You'll find entry forms in the August and September issues.

Winners! Winners! Winners! Winners! Winners!

Hundreds of you wanted to personalise your computers with cute Computer Critters. But we only had four to give away and they're winging their way to the winners of the contest we printed in the August Let's Compute!

Congratulations to these lucky winners: Miriam (8) from Chigwell in Essex, Steaphnie Leack (11) from Lancaster, Jamie Radford (14) from Uplands near Swansea and Jason Cooke (10) from Bromsgrove.

Hard luck losers. But we've even more prizes to give away in this issue of Let's Compute! So see if you can win one of those.



Many congratulations on what would appear to be an excellent computer magazine for children! It's full of ideas for learning about IT that can be easily transferred to classroom situations.

Would it be possible for us to photocopy some of the material for use in school? Perhaps we could provide you with some held research in return.

I was also wondering if you did any special promotions for schools. I feel that your magazine is one that we could promote in school to the benefit of our own pupils.

- Arnold Marchant, Boldmere Middle School

We've received many letters like this from schools wanting to boost their funds. As always, Let's Compute! does what its readers want.

So, we'll give £1 for each subscription a school gets for Let's Compute! For more details, write to Pete Davidson.

All the material in Let's Computel is copyright and must not be reproduced without written permission. Any school obtaining more than 10 subscriptions will automatically be given this permission.

Thanks for the offer of field research. We value feedback from all sources. It's only by hearing what children and schools want to see that we can give you exactly what you want.

I have just had an idea for your comic: A high score table for games would be great!

You could ask readers to send in their name, address, computer and the high scores they're reached. Then you could print them. It would give Let's Compute! readers something to compete against.

- James Hollis (13), Wakefield, W. Yorks

We'll be printing our first high score table next month. If you would like to see your name on it, just fill in and send us the coupon below. Post it to High Scores, Let's Compute! Europa house, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

We'll print the best. By the way, James. You didn't give us your full address. Remember that ALL writers of letters on the noticeboard receive a free baseball hat. Your hat's here waiting: Just send us your address.

High score challenge

Nam		
Add		
	AgeAge	
Com	outer	
Gam	Score	

I am a Let's Compute! Club member and want to take part in the competitions. But I don't want to cut up my copy of the comic.

Can I photocopy or draw the entry form myself?

I find Let's Compute! easy to understand. There's only one word for it - BRILLIANT!

 Laura Corney (13), Greenock, Scotland

We don't mind how your entries are sent. But try to keep them about the same size as the ones we print. And make sure you tell us everything that's asked for on the original coupon.

If you want to enter more than one competition you can send them all in one envelope.

Just address it to Let's Compute! Competitions, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield, SK10 4NP.

I have just received my member's pack. I am very pleased with it, especially the software.

However, I looked at the ruler and decided to memorise which was Ram and which was Rom. On the ruler Rom wears the glasses, but in the first issue of Let's Computel Ram has the spectacles.

Could you please tell me which is which?

- Simon Marwood (12), Richmond, North Yorks.

Ram is the clever one with the glasses. Rom is rather thick, and always hungry. The cartoons are drawn by ace cartoonist Mike Goldberg and are therefore always right in the magazine. But when they were put on the ruler, someone got it wrong.

Mike sent a special cartoon to the person who made the mistake. We're printing it here to help any readers who are at all confused between Rom and Ram.



Witches!

The party season has arrived. And what better way to make a halloween party – or any other – go with a fizz than to prepare an unusual cocktail of drinks?

Here's a program that gives you a few ideas of what you could mix with what.

But once you've created your tasty concoction, what do you call it?

The program itself comes to your rescue. Along with the list of suggested ingredients you also get a name.

As it's one made up by your computer it may look strange. And you may have trouble saying it. So be warned: With some of them you may tie your tongue in knots trying!

Now type it in - and have fun!

A HEX 4 BATS NEWT 2 FROGS TALL GLASS



Is YOUR machine here?

10 REM The Witches' Brew 20 REM (C) Let's Compute! 30 DEF FNr(n)=RND(n) 40 LET ws="aeiou" 50 LET VS="" 60 LET c\$="bcdfghjklmpqrstvwxyzn" 70 DIM d\$(3,50):DIM x(3) 80 FOR A=1 TO 3:LET M=0 90 LET M=M+1 100 READ dS(A,M) 110 IF d\$(A,M)<>"" THEN GOTO 90 120 LET x(A)=M-1:NEXT A 130 LET DUMMY = RND(-TIME) 140 CLS 150 PRINT "WITCHES' BREW" 160 PRINT 170 PRINT "How to make a "; 180 GOSUB 400 190 PRINT 200 FOR C=1 TO 3 210 GOSUB 270 220 NEXT C 230 PRINT 240 PRINT "Press a key for another dri 250 LET AX = GET 260 GOTO 140 270 REM SORT OUT WORDS 280 LET LD=0 290 LET T=FNr(3) 300 LET R=x(C)-LD 310 LET D=ABS(FNr(R+2)-FNr(R))+1+LD 320 IF D>x(C) THEN GOTO 390 330 IF C=3 THEN PRINT "and some ";:GOT 0 370 340 PRINT " ";T;" Measure"; 350 IF T>1 THEN PRINT "s of "; 360 IF T=1 THEN PRINT " of "; 370 PRINT d\$(C,D) 380 LET LD=D:GOTO 290 400 REM FIND AND PRINT NAME 410 LET R=FNr(21) 420 PRINT CHR\$(ASC(MID\$(c\$,R,1))-32); 430 IF R=12 THEN LET v\$="u":PRINT v\$; 440 IF R=15 THEN IF FNr(5)=1 THEN PRIN

450 GOSUB 580 460 PRINT v\$; 470 IF FNr(15)<2 THEN GOTO 450 480 LET R=FNr(21):PRINT MIDS(cs,R,1); 498 IF FNr(15)=1 THEN PRINT MIDS(cs,R, 500 IF R=12 THEN LET v\$="u":PRINT v\$; 510 IF R=1 THEN IF FNr(20)=1 THEN PRIN T "b"; 520 IF R=2 THEN IF FNr(2)=1 THEN PRINT 530 IF R=15 THEN IF FNr(9)=1 THEN PRIN 540 IF R<>12 THEN IF FNr(15)=1 THEN PR INT "r"; 550 IF FNr(5)<4 THEN GOTO 450 560 IF FNr(9)<5 THEN GOSUB 580: PRINT V \$;: IF FNr(15)=1 THEN PRINT "r"; 570 PRINT:RETURN 580 REM FIND A VOWEL 590 LET x5=v5 600 LET P=FNr(5) 610 LET v\$=MID\$(w\$,P,1) 620 IF v\$=x\$ THEN GOTO 600 630 RETURN 640 REM Soft Drinks 650 DATA "Lemon juice", "Apple juice"," Pineapple juice", "Tomato juice" 668 DATA "Apricot juice", "Orange juice ", "Mixed fruit juice", "Lime juice" 670 DATA "Vinto cordial", "Pear juice", "" 680 REM Fizzy drinks 690 DATA "Coke", "Vimto", "7 Up", "Lemona de", "Bitter Lemon", "Tonic water" 700 DATA "Ginger ale", "Soda water", "" 710 REM Floaters 720 DATA "orange peel", "ice cubes", "cl oves", "lemon peel", "lime peel" 730 DATA "cherries", "crushed ice", "app le slices", "raisins", "dried apricots" 740 DATA "dried peaches", "fresh pineap ple cubes", "orange slices" 750 DATA ""

BBCMicro/Archimedes/Electron The listing works as shown

Amstrad CPC

Change the following lines:

30 DEF FNr(n)=INT(RND*n+1)

130 RANDOMIZE TIME

250 WHILE INKEY\$="":WEND

C64/128

Enter the program in capitals. Change the following lines:

30 DEF FNR(N)=INT(RND(0)*N+1)

140 PRINT CHR\$(147)

250 GET AS: IFAS="" THEN GOTO 250

420 PRINT MIDS(C\$,R,1)

PC (GW-Basic)

Change the following lines:

30 DEF FNr(n)=INT(RND*n+1)

130 RANDOMIZE TIMER

250 WHILE INKEY\$="":WEND

Spectrum

Use 48k mode.

Change the following lines:

30 DEF FNr(n)=INT(RND*n+1)

70 DIM d\$(3,50,22): DIM x(3): DIM s\$(22)

110 IF d\$(A,M) <> ""s\$ THEN GOTO 90

130 RANDOMIZE

250 PAUSE 0

310 LET D=ABS (FN r(R+2)-FN r(R))+1+L0

420 PRINT CHR\$ (CODE (c\$(R))-32);

490 IF FN r(15)=1 THEN PRINT c\$(R);

610 LET v\$=w\$(P)

ST(Stos) / Amiga(Amos)

Change the following lines:

30 MODEØ: HIDE

130 LET a=RND(TIMER)

250 WAIT KEY

290 LET t=RND(2)+1

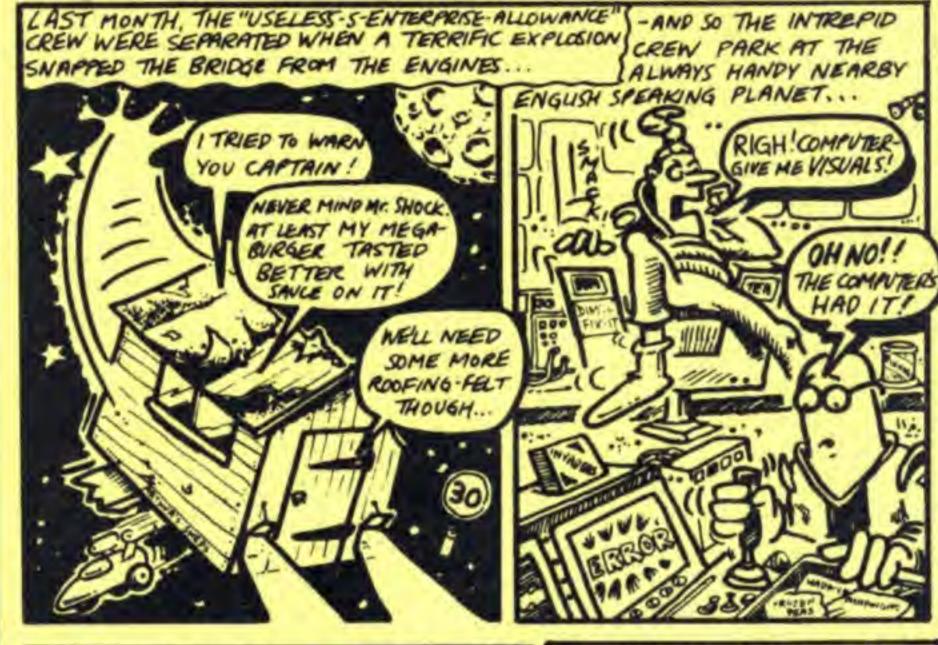
310 LET D=ABS(RND(R+2)-RND(R))+1+L0

600 LET p=RND(4)+1

AMOS: Use CLS instead of MODER

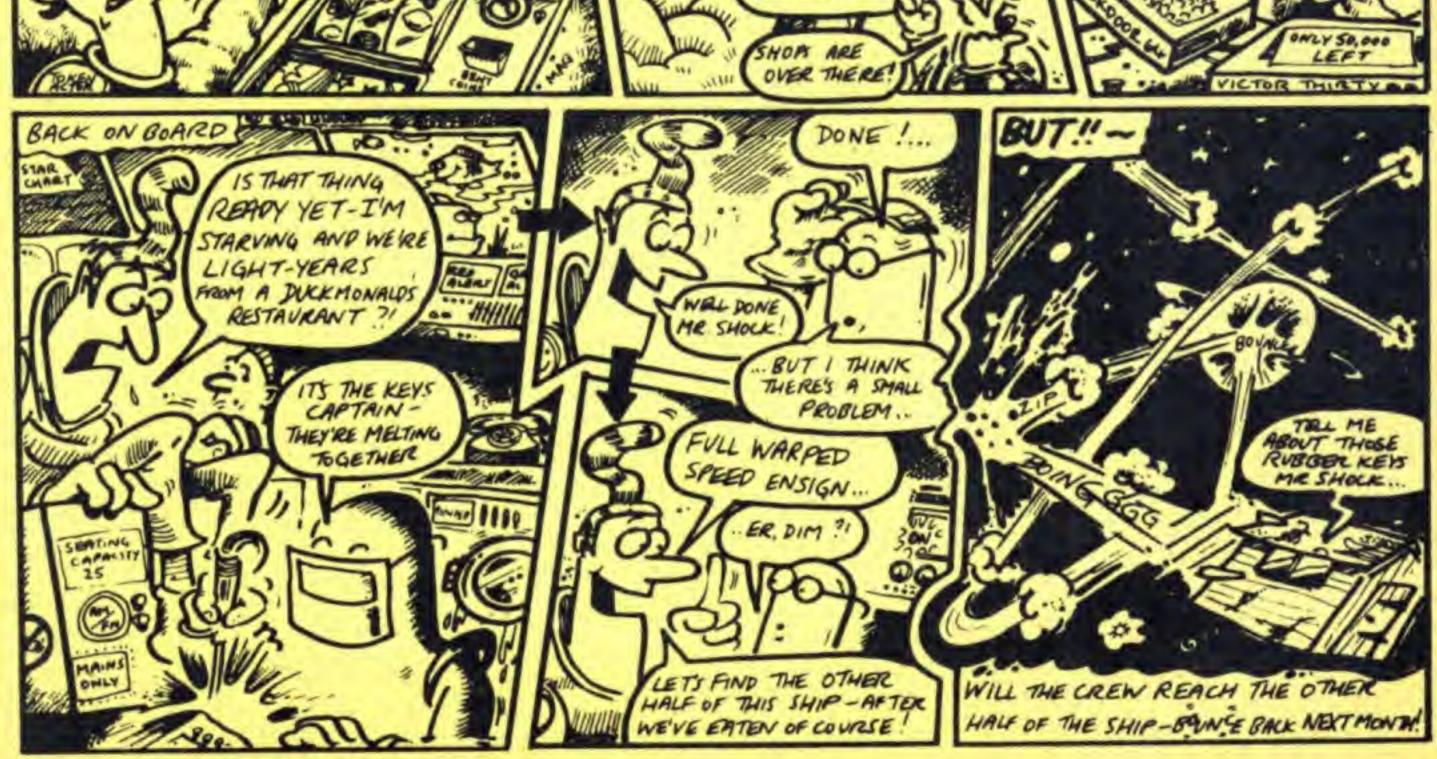
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- Talking Turtle you can program your Amiga whatever age you are
- Let's Spell at Home helps you to spell by using pictures
- BBC Emulator use it to run the BBC Micro versions of programs in Let's Compute!

A video to teach you how to set up your new Amiga, use the programs and what to do next.

The monitor in the picture is not included in the prize. The computer will work with an ordinary television.

WHAT TO DO

We are looking for the person who can make the most words out of the letters in these two

COMMODORE AMIGA

Write down all the words you find on a separate piece of paper. Then attach it to the entry form and send it to Let's Compute! before October 31.



AMIG	A CC	MITE	CT EI	MTDV	FORM
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AMIGA CONTEST ENTRY FORM
I found words
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Address
Postcode
TelAge
My present computer is a :
Now send this to: Commodore Competition Let's Computed

Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP

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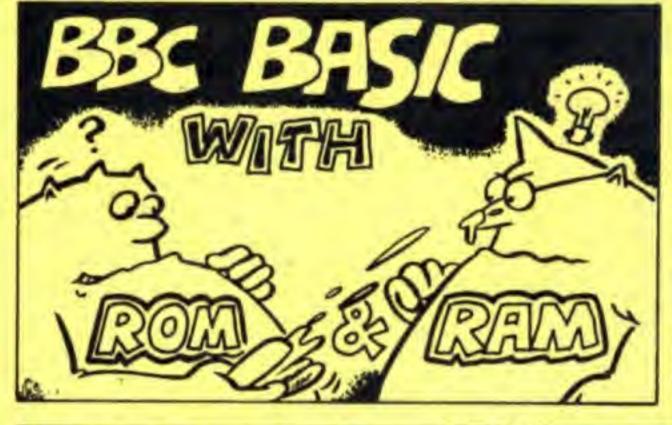
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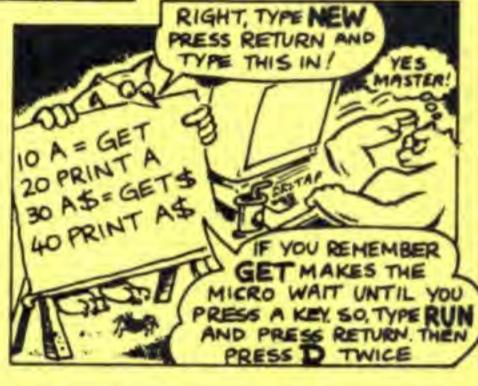
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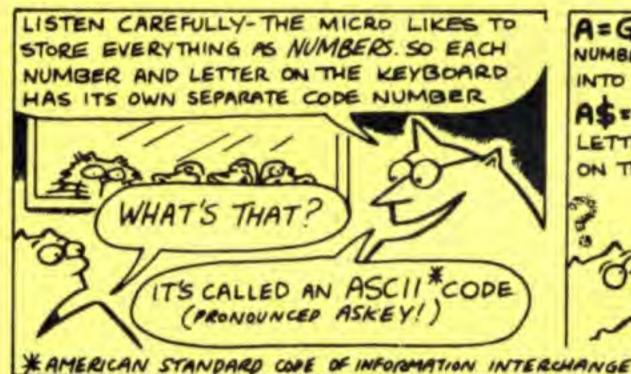


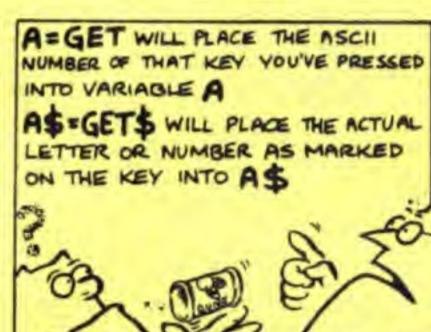


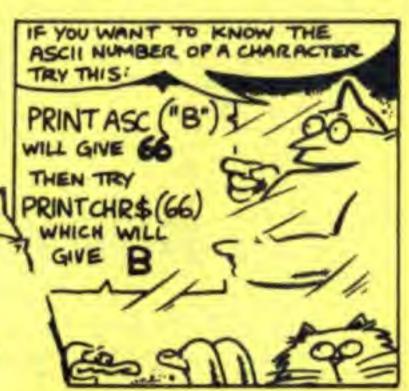


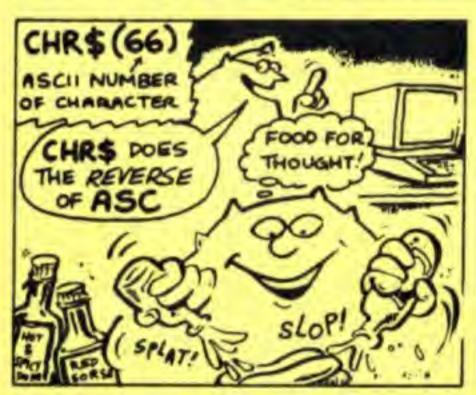


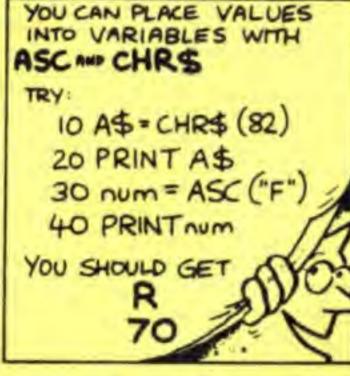


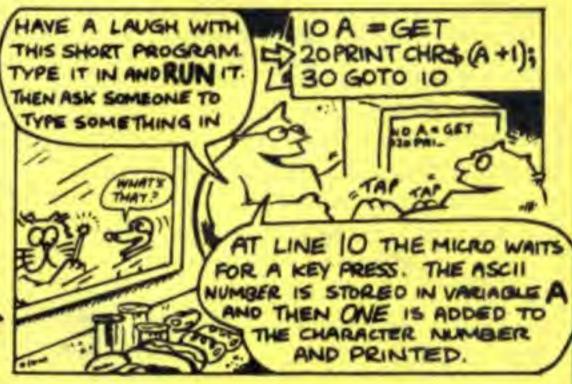




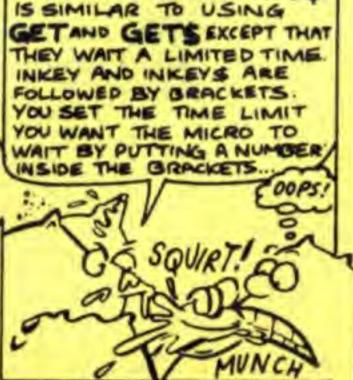




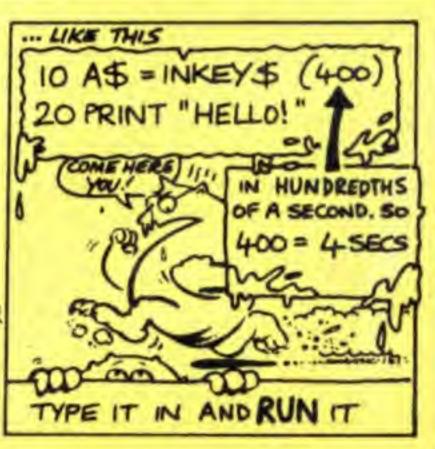


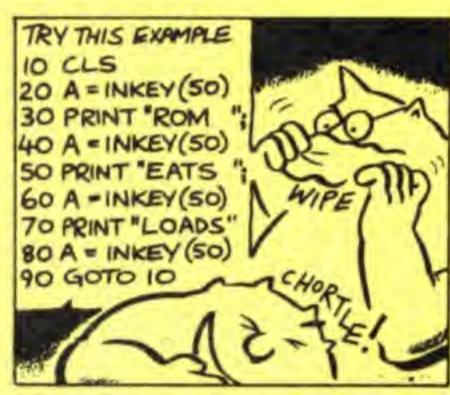


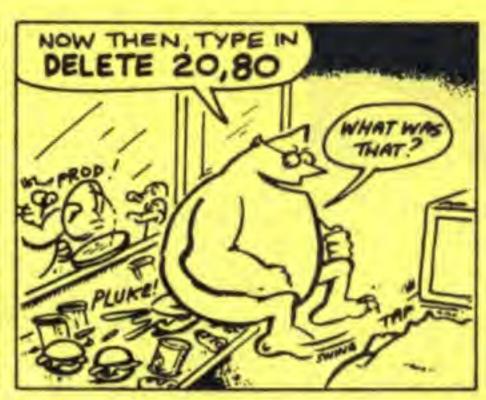


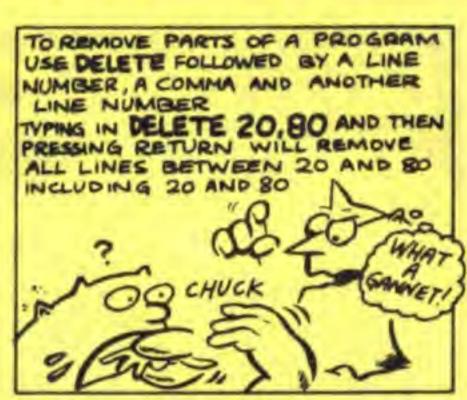


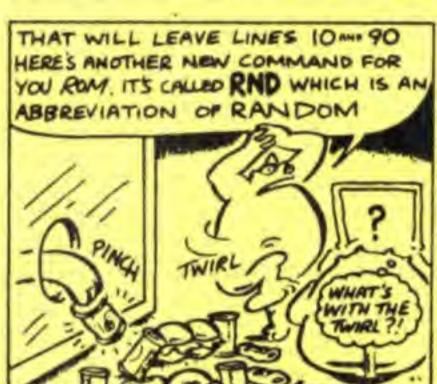
USING INKEY AND INKEYS





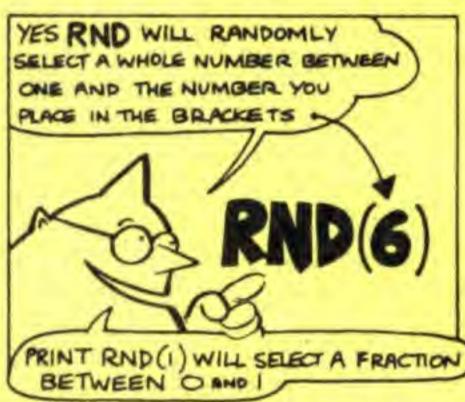




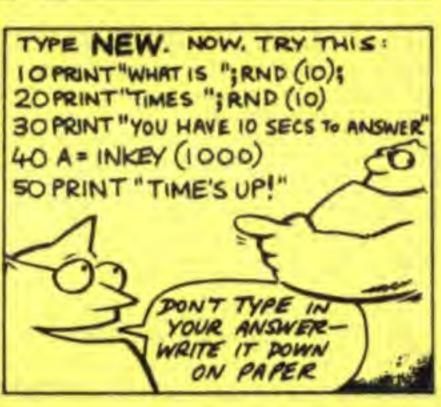


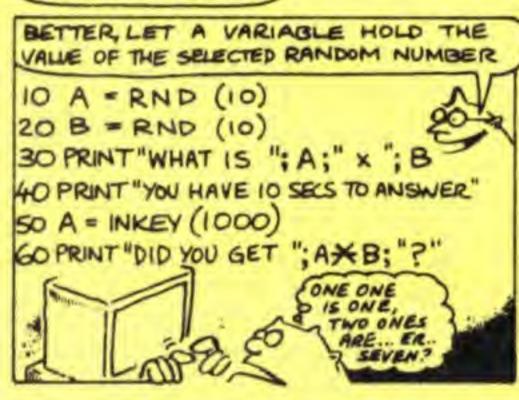


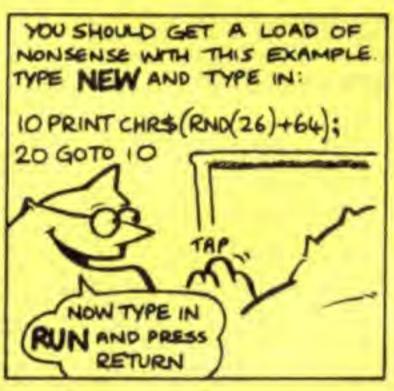


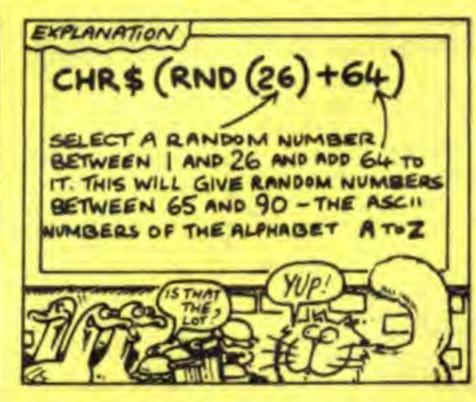


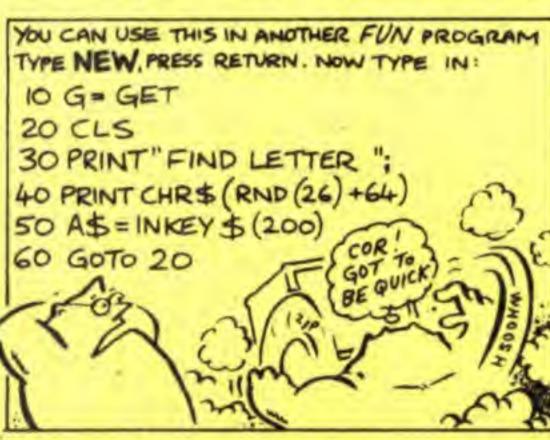












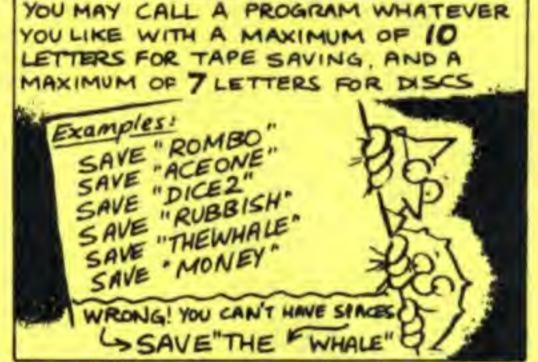




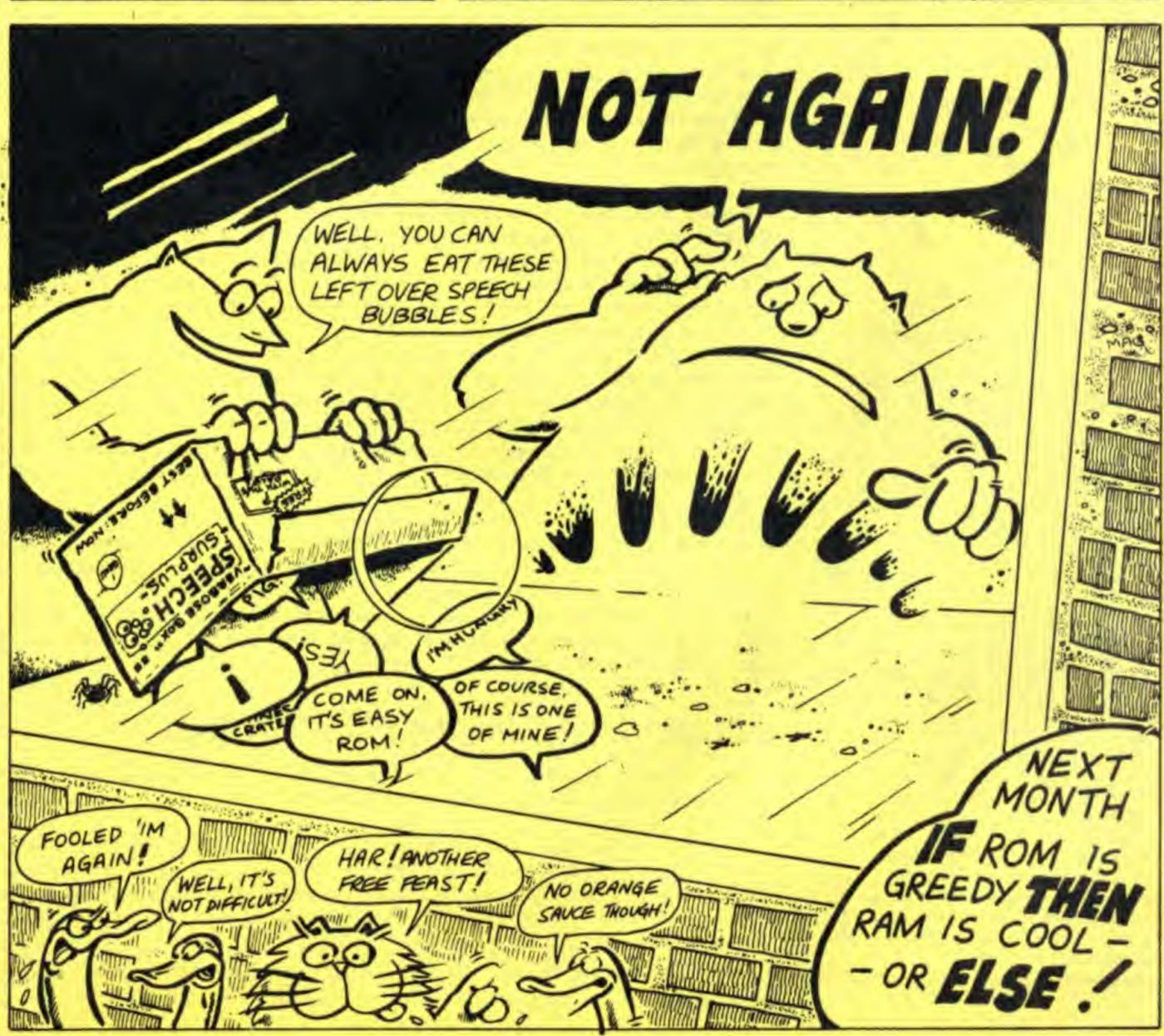














The program and computer terms used in this article relate to Acorn micros. Readers with an Amstrad CPC, Commodore 64/128, Spectrum, Atari ST or Amiga who order a Gadget Shop pack will be sent complete instructions appropriate to their machines.



There are lots of ways of making burglar alarms. In the Gadget Shop this month we'll see how to turn your computer into an electronic watchdog.

And you needn't stop at burglar alarms. The switches we're going to use can just as easily perform other jobs. Such as keeping a check on the position

of a model train. Or as the keyboard of a musical instrument.

The link to your computer is through a connector strip. Remember we made one at the start of this series. Let's see what else we will need.

Using this type of connector our computer can only detect if something is switched on or off. What we have to do is to get our intruder to do this with some form of invisible switch.

A reed switch is ideal. It uses two contacts sealed in a glass envelope. When we bring a magnet close to it the contacts move together and complete the circuit.

All we need do is mount a magnet on a door and a reed switch on the door frame. These must be placed so that when the door is closed the magnet is next to the switch. The magnet pulls the two contacts together and the switch is ON.

When the door is opened the magnet moves away and the reed switch opens. Our computer will spot this happening and raise the alarm.

If you are connecting your alarm to the User Port of an Acorn machine you have eight inputs and can monitor up to eight doors or windows at the same time. If you connect it to the joystick port of another micro you have five inputs.

In fact you can alarm any number of doors or windows by just chaining the switches together. In this way you'll know when one is open. But not which one.

Other uses for the switches

If you want to monitor the position of a model train put the reed switch near the track and the magnet on the train. The switch will close as the train passes over it.

Or you can make a simple musical instrument by mounting eight switches in a row. If you connect them to your micro and write a short program you can play tunes by waving a magnet over the switches.

There are lots more uses for this type of switch. For example you could design an electronic game.

Let us know if you make anything unusual from these switches - there will be a prize for the brightest idea.

Which switch do you need?

On offer this month are three different types of reed switch and magnet. They're all mounted in white PVC cases and fixed in place with screws or nails.

The surface mounting set can be used for windows as well as doors. The two recessed sets – one large and one small – are best for doors. The diagram shows how to wire them up and the pholographs show them fitted

You can connect several different switches to one computer. Just copy the wiring diagram for each one.

Any unused inputs should be wired directly to the earth connection.

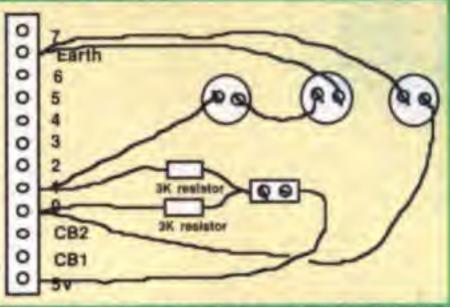
The listing given is for a BBC Micro. It is a simple program to monitor the switches and raise the alarm. You can use it as a basis for your own routines

Remember to make the modifications shown below if you are using an Electron or Archimedes.

Modifications for the Spectrum, CPC, Atari ST and Amiga are supplied with Gadget Shop Pack 2 – remember to state which computer you are using.

WARNING

Keep the magnets in the contact sets away from your discs. Magnetic fields can damage programs stored on them.



Alarming a door on Pin 0 and two on Pin 1

```
10 MODE 7
20 PRINT"The Gadget Shop Intruder Ala

rm"

30 REPEAT
40 C%=1
50 PRINT TAB(0,4)
60 AX=?&FE60
70 FOR BX=0 TO 7
80 IF (CX AND AX)=0 THEN PRINT"Locati
on ";B%;" is safe";SPC(10) ELSE PRINT"In
truder at location ";B%
90 C%=C%*2
100 NEXT B%
110 IF AX<>0 THEN SOUND 1,-15,20,1:SOU
ND 1,-15,100,1
120 UNTIL FALSE
```

BBC listing - see text for other computers







The three types of contact you can get from The Gadget Shop





IS THIS YOUR COMPUTER?

BBC Micro: Use the program above.

Archimedes and BBC A3000: You need an i/o podule. The program also needs to be changed.

Replace Line 60 with:

SYS "05 Byte",150,860 TO ,,AX

Note that the two commas after the TO are essential.

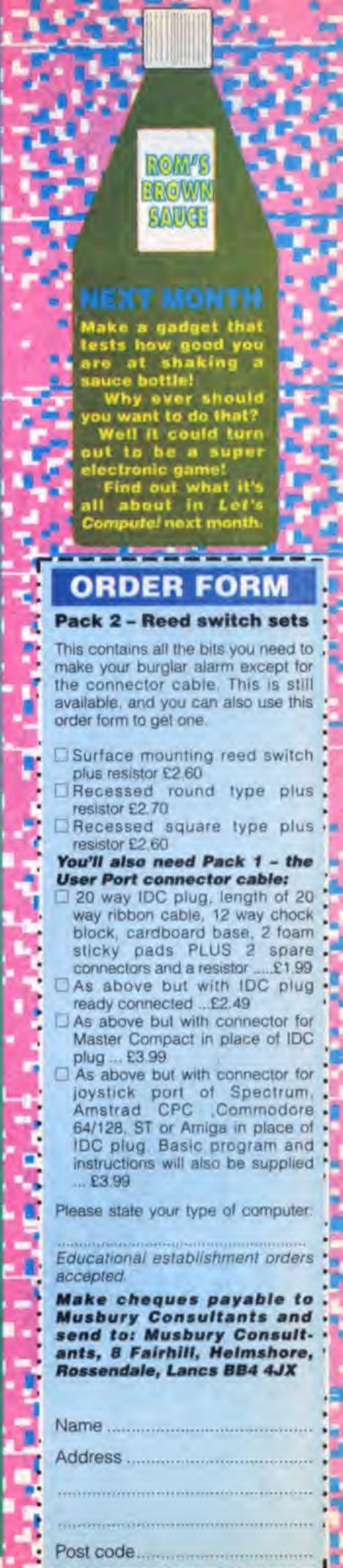
Electron: You need a Plus One and User Port expansion – available from Pres (0276 72046). The game and program work as they are described above except that the memory location

which is accessed by the User Port is &FCB0. So wherever you see &FE60 in the program you use &FCB0

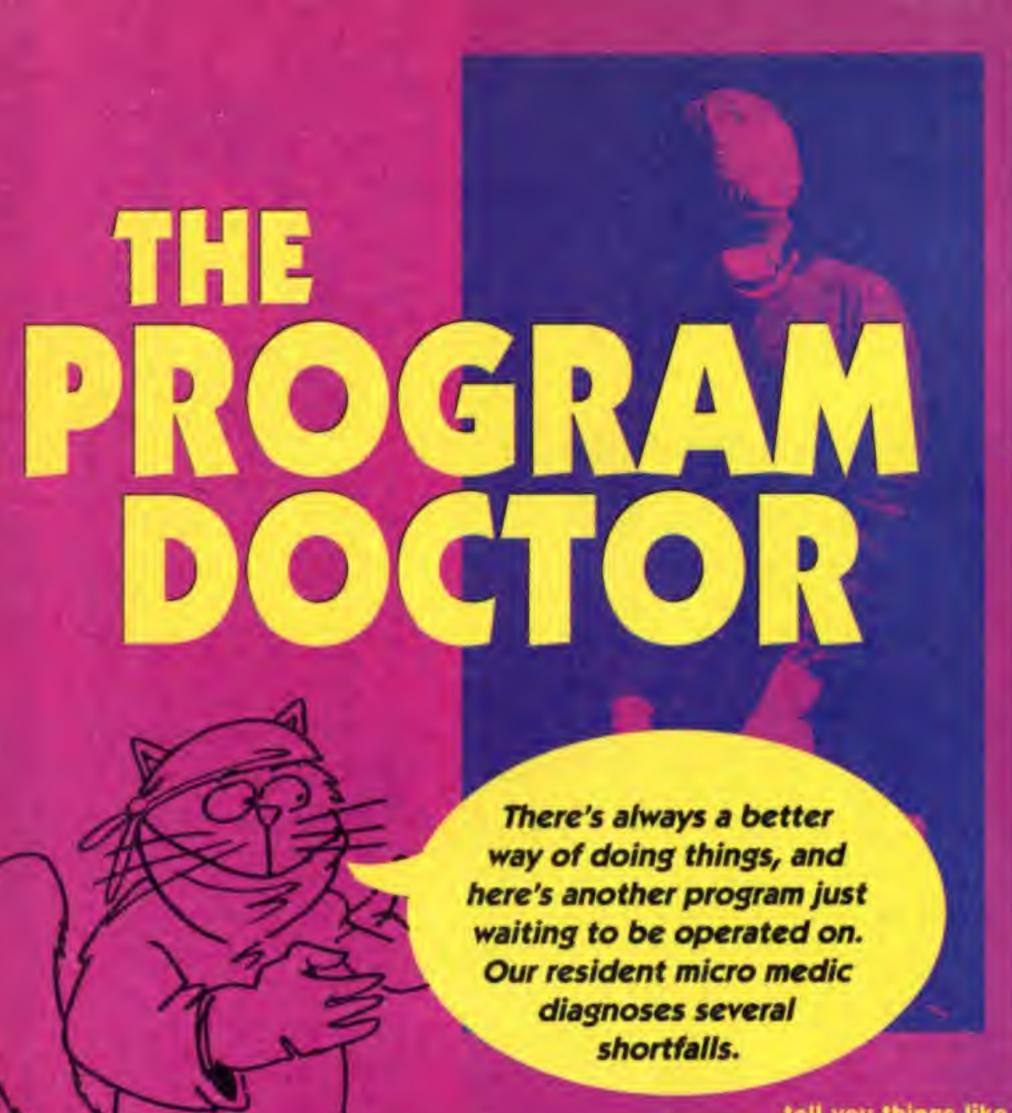
Spectrum: You need an Interface 1 and the gadget connects to the joystick port*.

Amstrad CPC, Commodore 64/128, Amiga and ST: The gadget connects to the joystick port.

* The full assembly instructions are in Gadget Shop Pack 2. The short Basic routine to operate the gadget will be supplied when you order it.



LET'S COMPLITE! Delaber 1990 15



This is the original program:

- 10 PRINT "This is all the program does."
- 20 PRINT "Do you want to finish?(Y/N)"
- 30 ks=GETS
- 40 IF k\$<>"Y" THEN RUN

How the Doc altered it:

- 1 REM ### Program Doctor ###
- 2 REM ### Version Two ###
- 10 PRINT "This is all the program does."
- 20 PRINT "Do you want to finish?(Y/N)"
- 30 kS=GETS
- 40 IF k\$<>"Y" OR k\$<>"y" THEN RUN
- 50 PRINT "Goodbye then"

IS YOUR MACHINE HERE?

Electron/BBC/Archimedes

The programs work as shown

CPC/PC (GW-Basic)

Replace ks=661\$ with:

KS="":WHILE KS="":KS=INKEYS:WEND

Commodore 64/128

Enter the program in capitals Replace \s=6E1\$ with:

GET K\$:1F K\$="" THEN GOTO 30

Spectrum

Salect 48k mode

Replace ks=6£1\$ with:

KS=LNKEYS:1F KS="" THEN 60TO 30

Amiga and Atari ST

Use Amos or Stos

Replace ks=6ETS with ks=IMPUT(1)

Remember all those games programs where, having lost all your lives all too quickly, the micro offers you a chance to play the game again? Well, that's what the program at the top of the page does. It

prints out a simple message until you press N to finish.

Recognise the standard question:

Do you want to finish?(Y/N)

Actually all that happens is that line 40 tests wether Y was pressed. If it wasn't it RUNs the program again. If you pressed any other key - including a small y - the program ends.

But we can do a much better job. The second program shows how.

Here are improvements that have been made:

- You should always test for lower case letters as well as capitals - y as well as Y. That's what the OR is doing in the new Line 40.
- It's also polite to let the user know that the program has ended. So Line 50 is there to round things off.

Those are the programming changes. But you might notice something else - put in to make the program easier to read.

It now starts with two lines of REMs. These don't affect the way it runs, but they act as a useful signpost. They tell you things like which version of the program it is and so on. Still, things could be even better. At the moment, any key except Y or y will repeat the program, despite the fact we've asked for a yes or no answer (Y/N).

There is one way round this. Just add another IF ...
THEN. Put in the following line and you've got a much
more friendly program:

45 EF KS-C-"N" OR KS-C-"N" THEN GOTO SE

All right, the main part of the program does nothing except print a bit of text. But the point is that WHATEVER someone types it is dealt with properly now.

The program caters for every input so there can be no freak happenings when someone presses X, say. And that's what makes a more polished job.

These routines will work - with the small changes listed - on most home micros. But there are more elegant ways of doing the same thing.

The snag is that you need to use different commands for different micros.

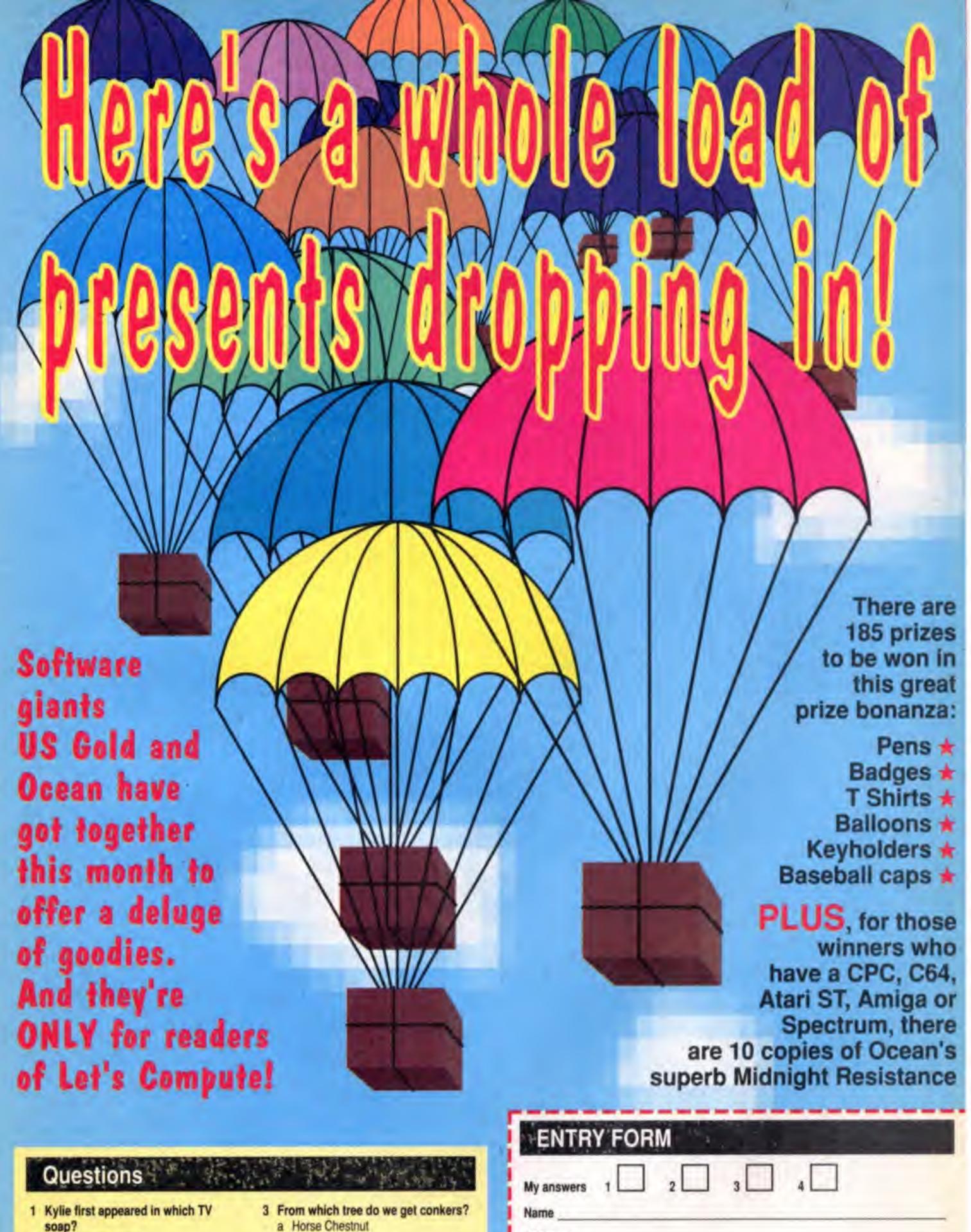
For example, on the BBC Micro you can use the command INSTR as part of your check for which letter was pressed.

On Page 9 of the August issue of Let's Compute! the green part of the listing shows this.

If you can write a super sophisticated bit of program to check for a Y/N reply on your micro, let us see it.

We'll pin the best to the Noticeboard and send the author a baseball cap.

Do you think YOU'VE written a program that can't be improved? Then send it along to the Program Doctor. He LOVES a challenge!



- a Home and Away
- b The Young Doctors
- c Neighbours
- 2 Which country saw the first kites?
- a China
- b USA
- c France

- b Oak
- c Yew
- 4 Which building did Guy Fawks try to blow up?
 - a Buckingham Palace
 - b The Houses of Parliament
 - c 10 Downing Street

Address

Postcode

My computer is a

Send to Bonanza Competition, Let's Compute!, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP

The Safe Scientist starts piling on the pressure

This month's program is all about the scientific way of using pressure to do an everyday job. The program examines how the kind of jack used in garages for lifting up cars works.

It's really just a couple of cylinders joined together by a narrow pipe.

Each cylinder has a well-fitting piston inside it and the whole thing is filled with fluid - usually oil. So if you push down on one piston the oil passes the pressure produced on to the other cylinder, which moves up.

The clever part of the whole arrangement is that you can lift big weights easily if you choose the right size for your cylinders.

In the program you can change the size of either cylinder and see what happens. You can also alter the weight of the car you lift - scientifically known as the load - and how hard you push - the effort.

You may notice that units aren't mentioned in the program. They could be anything but, if you prefer, just think that lengths are in centimetres and forces and weights are in newtons.

The program works well, but has been kept as short as posible. If you are a programmer you could enhance it yourself.

For example, there's a procedure called PROCtap that checks for you pressing the spacebar. It was given that name because it was going to draw a tap in the pipe between the two cylinders - the tap would open when the spacebar was pressed.

PROCtap was shortened to reduce the length of the listing, but you could write your own.

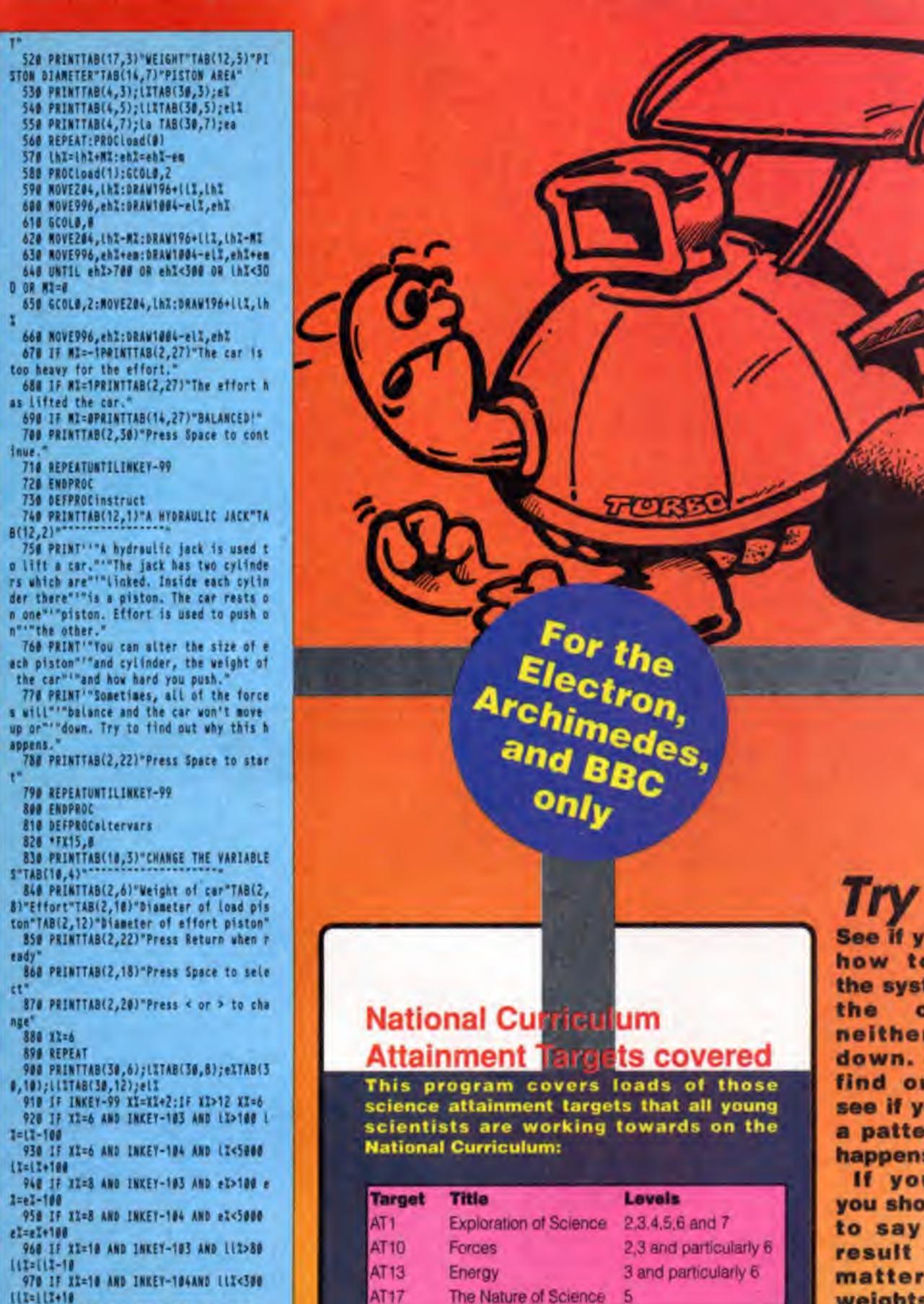
You could also give the pipe a more unusual shape - machines like this will work even if knots are tied in the pipes. Also sound could be added.

Alter the program to suit yourself and use it in any way you like.

Just remember one thing. Science is meant to be fun, so start experimenting.

20 REM By the Safe Scientist 30 REM (c) Let's Compute! 40 MODE6: VOUT9, 0, 4;0;: PROCinstruct 68 BZ=882828A:PROCsetup:REPEAT 76 PROCSetup: REPEAT: MODE6 80 MODE6: YOU23;8202;8;8;8;8;8; 90 LhX=500:ehX=500:PROCaltervars 188 PROCELTERVERS: MODE1 11# MODE1: VOUZ3;82#Z;8;8;8;8;8; 120 PROCdrawpress:PROCLoad(1) 130 PROCtap:PROCworkout:UNTIL@:END 140 DEFPROEsetup 158 [X=1000:eX=500:[[X=200:eLX=100 160 Lh2=500:eh2=500 170 VDU23,224,3,4,8,63,127,255,255,48 180 VDU23,225,240,136,132,254,127,127, 255,12 198 car\$=CHR\$224+CHR\$225 200 VDU23,226,0,0,0,0,24,24,24,24 210 VDU23,227,24,24,24,24,255,126,60,2 228 ars=CHR\$226+CHR\$8+CHR\$10+CHR\$227 230 DEFPROCdrawpress:GCOLD,1 248 MOVEZOB, 200: DRAW1000, 200 258 MOVE288, 208: DRAW288, 788 268 MOVE1888,288:DRAW1888,788 278 MOVEZ08+LLX,300:DRAW1008-eLX,300 288 MOVE200+111,300:DRAW200+111,700 290 MOVE1000-elx,300:0RAV1000-el1,700 308 GCOL8,2 318 MOVE284, th2: DRAW196+112, th2 320 MOVE1004-el2,500:DRAW996,500 330 ENDPROC 348 DEFPROCLOAD(c2) 350 GCOLD, CX: YDUS 360 MOVE168+LLX/2, LhX+36:PRINTcars 370 MOVE984-eLX/2,ehX+76:PRINTar\$ 388 VDU4: ENDPROC 39# DEFPROCEAD 400 PRINTTAB(4,30); "Press Space to see what happens" 418 REPEATUNTILINKEY-99 420 PRINTTAB(4,30); SPC(31) 430 ENDPROC 440 DEFPROCUOTKOUT 450 *FX15,0 468 La=PI*([[1/2]*2:ea=PI*(e(1/2)*2 476 lp=1%/la:ep=e%/ea:st=lp-ep 480 IF st<0.0001 AND st>-0.0001 st=0 490 IFst>0 MX=-1 ELSE IF st=0 MX=0 ELS E WZ=1 500 em=La/ea*M% 510 PRINTTAB(4,1)"LOAD"TAB(30,1)"EFFOR

18 REM The pressure machine



988 IF XX=12 AND INKEY-183 AND eLX>58

998 IF XX=12 AND INKEY-184 AND eLX<388

1888 PRINTTAB(38, XX); SPC(9)

1028 UNTILINKEY(0)=13

1010 TIME=0: REPEATUNTILTIME>5

elX=elX-10

elX=elX+10

1030 ENDPROC

Try this!

See if you can find how to balance the system so that the car goes neither up nor down. Don't just find one case - see if you can find a pattern in what happens.

If you do well you should be able to say what the result will be no matter what weights and sizes are involved.

Incidentally, it's a good idea to work with a friend so that you can talk over your theories and swap ideas.





The brain of a computer is called the CPU - which stands for Central Processing Unit. But before it can start working things out for us we need to put some facts and figures into it.

So this month let's look at how information gets from the outside world into our minature electronic world. This is usually done using a keyboard.

The technical term for what you feed into a computer is data. And the keyboard is only one of many things we can use.

It can be done in many other ways.

You may have a mouse or a joystick. When you're using them you're also feeding information into the computer - just as when you're using a keyboard. They're all input devices.

You can use a connector called a Midi interface to link a musical instrument to your computer. The instrument is then an input device for the computer.

And there are still more - tracker balls, light pens and scanners.

They all have one thing in common: They take information and turn it into electrical signals which represent numbers.

On the very first computers the only way to feed data in was through a row of switches. Turning them on and off in certain patterns sent information to the CPU. Now computers are much easier to use. They are said to be more user friendly.

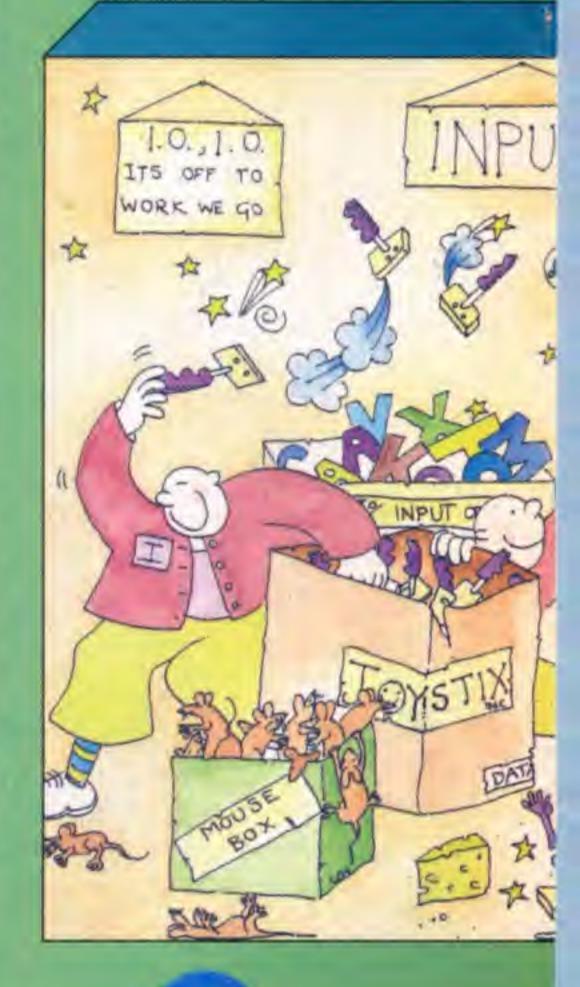
But if you think the old idea of switches has been replaced by the keyboard think again. For this is still only a lot of switches - pressing a key just turns on a few at a time.

A keyboard is a rather slow way of getting data into your computer. It's much faster if you use a a tape recorder or disc drive.

These take data that has been stored as a magnetic pattern and change it into electrical pulses.

The CPU can read these pulses and carries out the coded instructions that they make up. Whether it's just a single letter or a complete game, the data reaches the CPU in pulses.

What it does with them will be revealed in the next month's Let's Compute!



INPUT DEVICES

Keyboard

Pressing a key sends a coded number to the CPU. For example, the letter A is sent as the number 65. Each key has a different number - called it's Ascii code between 0 and 255.

Joystick

Most joysticks contain five switches one for each direction and one for fire. Whenever a switch is activated it sends a CPU. number to the

Diagonal movements are detected if the numbers add up to the same as two single movements.

PUtime



BINARY BITS

We count in Tens and Units. It works well - we can use our fingers (and thumbs) to count on.

But a computer works with switches and electrical pulses. They're either on or off, there or not there.

It's as if a computer has to count using only two fingers. So it uses Twos and Units.

Just like the way we count has a name - the decimal system - so the computer's way also has a name. It's called the binary system and it uses just 0 and 1.

When a switch is off it's called 0. When it's on it's 1.

Here are the numbers from one to seven using binary numbers:

1 10 11 100 101 110 111

It looks impossible to understand, but it's really easy.

Suppose you were told to count up to seven weeks using just zeros and ones.

All you have to do is count in weeks, fortnights and months. The table below shows how you can think of it.

So now you can already count up to seven in binary. In next month's Let's Compute! we'll go further along this clever road of counting.

months fortnights weeks

	1	So 1 = 1 week
1	0	So 10 = 2 weeks
1	1	So 11 = 3 weeks
0	0	So 100 = 4 weeks
0	1	So 101 = 5 weeks
1	0	So 110 = 6 weeks
1	1	So 111 = 7 weeks
		1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0

Counting up to 7 in binary

A lot of computers now have a mouse as well as a keyboard.

ment in any direction into pulses which are decoded by the CPU.

Scanner

A scanner converts a picture on paper into an electronic image. As the scanner passes over the picture small electronic and off depending on what

the picture small electronic switches turn on and off depending on whether light or dark areas are detected.

NEXT MONTH: We look at how the CPU does its tricks!



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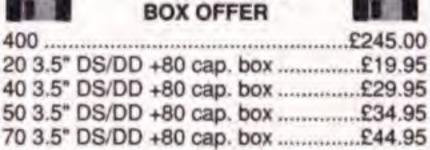
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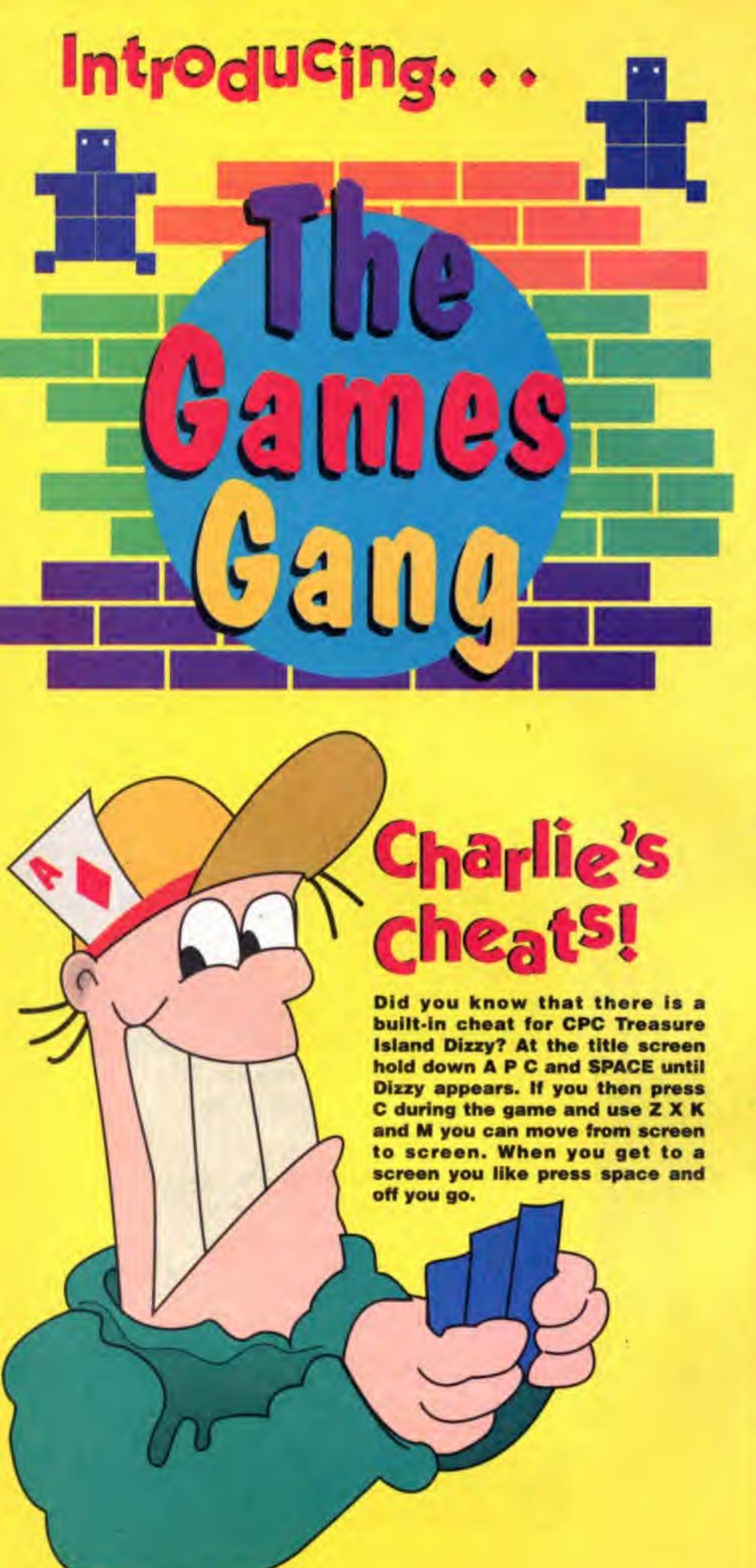
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Castle of Adventure

Watch out for Mirrorsoft's Cadaver. It's a role-playing game with a difference. Everything's joystick controlled so there's no need for boring typing in.

You play a bounty-hunting dwarf searching a mysterious castle. It's stuffed with treasure, gripping puzzles and magical beasts.

Solve all the problems and you might get to kill the Necromancer and become exceedingly rich.

It's been programmed by the famous Bitmap Brothers. They're the team behind Speedball and Xenon 2. Due out shortly for the Atari ST and Amiga.

Budget Bonanza

Your pocket money doesn't stretch to fullprice software very often? Don't despair – there are plenty of good budget games on the market. Some of the best are rereleases of old full-price classics.

Among the best of this month's bunch are Encore's Ace and Ace 2 (£2.99). These two brilliant flight sims are rolled into one for the Spectrum, C64 and CPC.

Conflict (£4.99), is a playable intro to wargaming. It's out on Virgin Master-tronic's 16-Blitz label for the PC, Amiga



Peter's Patteh

Matt Browne from Potters Bar has come up with a poke for Alternative's Microball (BBC Micro and Electron). This blocks off all the holes so that the ball can't be lost.

Just put your tape in the recorder and type the following:

LOAD "PINBALL" 160 CLS: PAGE=&1200 RUN LOAD "LOADER"

2007 FOR A=&7C98 TO &7CDF: ?A=127: NEXT 2008 FOR A=86ABO TO &6ABF: ?A=126:NEXT

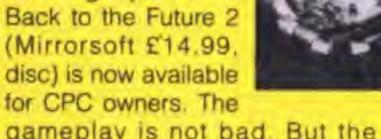
2009 FOR A=&6BC8 TO &6BD7: 2A=126: NEXT

RUN



BACK TO THE FUTURE 2

The eagerly awaited Back to the Future 2 (Mirrorsoft £14.99, disc) is now available



gameplay is not bad. But the mono graphics in the main part of the game disappoint.

It's nearly a year since Fighter Bomber, first appeared pn the PC. Now it's made it to the CPC screenson a £19.99 disc from Activision.

It features well produced 3D graphics amd mission objectives. A worthy successor to that old CPC favourite, After Burner

Do watch out though - some CPC owners may have a problem. The protection on the disc version prevents it from loading on some machines.



COVABUNGA Are you a Turtle Maniac?

Is there anyone out there who isn't a fan of Leonardo, Raphael, **Donatello and Michelangelo?**

Those pizza-loving heroes in a half-shell are about to make their computer in a game from Image Works.

First on the shelves will be the

PC and Amiga versions. Others will follow except for BBC and Archimedes users. Seems like they'll be missing out.

Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles is bound to be one of the hottest releases this Christmas. So get saving. Cowabunga!



PIPEMANIA

Pam and her minions have been working hard on Empire's addictive puzzle game Pipemania, Here's the full list of passwords for the Amiga and C64. Can anyone help with the others?

Amiga

Level 5: GRIP Level 9: TICK Level 13: DOCK Level 17: OOZE Level 21: BLOB Level 25 BALL Level 29 WILD

C64

Level 5: HAHA Level 9: GRIN Level 13: REAP Level 17: SEED Level 21: GROW Level 25: TALL Level 29: YALI



NEVRYON

Micro version:

Are you a follower of Fourth Dimension's Nevryon? Here are the Archimedes passwords as discovered by James Marshall and David Horner from Tollerton:

Level 3: MIRADOR Level 5: ISENGARD

Level 7: KRYNN Mathew Elliot from Royston has supplied the passwords for the BBC

Level 3. ARCHIE

Level 5: STEREO Level 7: REBEL





If you've got any hints, pokes or cheats you'd like us to print send them in to us at Let's Compute! Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

Think you know a lot about pop music? Here's a program to test you out.

If you fancy being a quizmaster - now's your chance!

Clever Tina Turtle has devised a Pop Quiz you can play
on your computer. And she's made it easy for you to
change it into any type of quiz you like.

After you've typed in the program and RUN it you'll be asked 10 questions. Get one right and you move on to the next.

If you get one wrong, you'll be given the right answer before you move on to the next question. Note that as the data is all in capitals you must answer in capitals.

Once you've enswered all 10 questions you're given your score and a message.

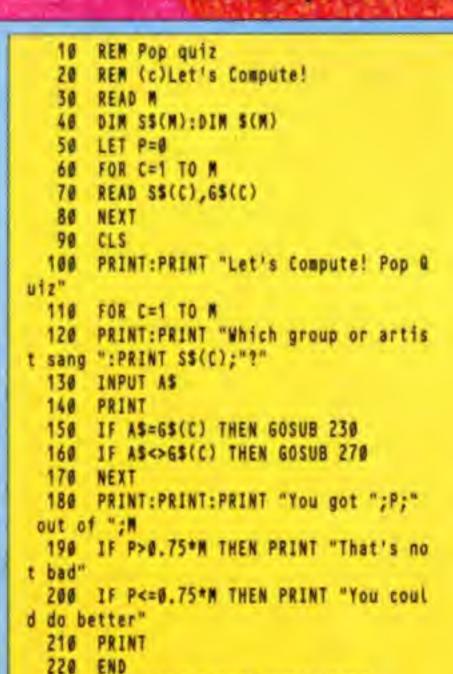
At the moment there are two messages - printed by Lines 190 and 200. You can easily change them or - by inserting more similar lines - add messages of your own.

If you want to add more questions change Line 330 to say how many there are in all. Then add more lines similar to those already at 350 to 440 at the end of the program.

Start numbering the extra DATA statements at Line 450. Questiously, if you wish you can change all the data at the end of the program and put anything you want there. Geography, history, trivial pursuit – any type of question will do. Don't forget that if you change the type of quiz you'll also have to alter lines 100 and 120. This simple quiz has many uses. If you come up with any novel questions and answers let us see them. There will be a prize for any DATA lines we pin to the noticeboard.

260 RETURN





230 REM RIGHT ANSWER SUBROUTINE

240 PRINT "Well done, you're right"

280	
290	PRINT "The right answer is: ";6\$(
C)	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O
300	RETURN
	REM DATA LINES
320	REM NEXT IS NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
	DATA 19
	REM NEXT ARE SONGS, GROUPS
350	그리 생생이 하네가 입으면 하면 있다면 그 아무지가 하는데 주는 사람이 나라 하는 생활하는데 그리고 있다.
MBALUR	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O
360	DATA "TURTLE POWER", "PARTNERS IN
KRYME"	territ renter renew & thursday an
370	DATA "LISTEN TO YOUR HEART", "ROXE
TTE"	and and the land the training & the training of training of the training of the training of the training of the training of training o
380	DATA "NAKED IN THE RAIN", "BLUE PE
ARL"	tenting and the man y sees to
390	DATA "TONIGHT", "NEW KIDS ON THE B
LOCK"	
400	DATA "YOU CAN'T TOUCH THIS", "MC H
AMMER"	Data too can i room tale y ac a
410	DATA "WHERE ARE YOU BABY?", "BETTY
B00"	DATA BREAK ARE 100 BABIL , BETTT
	DATA "ENGLISHMAN IN NEW YORK", "ST
ING"	Pain Engersman in her long & st
1911-9	DATA "PRAYING FOR TIME", "GEORGE M
ICHAEL	
	DATA "THIEVES IN THE TEMPLE", "PRI
NCE"	ANTH THIEFES IN THE TENTER & LAT
HEE	

270 REM WRONG ANSWER SUBROUTINE

IS YOUR MACHINE MERE?

Electron/BBC/Archimedes/ ST (Stos)/Amiga (Amos)/

PC (GW-Basic)

The program will work as shown.

Commodore 64/128

Use capital letters throughout. Change line 90 to:

90 PRINT CHRS(147)

Spectrum

Use 48k mode. Change line 40 to:

48 DIM SS(R+1,32):DIM GS(M,32): DIM AS(32)

Insert a new line.

135 IF LEN(AS)<18 THEN LET AS=AS+" ":60 TO 135

250 LET P=P+1











The Micro Kid









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LETSC10





More objects means more fun. Our ace artist Mike Goldberg continues building his mega game

The last two month's listings gave you a basic game with monsters, a few objects to collect and hyperspace. If you've typed them in you're now ready to add this month's features.

So what's new? Well, to start with you'll find the baddies laying bombs at random intervals. March into one and you'll die!

But if a baddie touches a bomb it only moves to another part of the screen. So beware! It could move right in front of you.

Another object added by this listing is a twin symbol. If a baddy moves over this it creates two clones of itself. You could end up with as many as 12 monsters.

The idea is to reach these objects before the baddies. There's also £ symbols which give you a bonus when you collect them.

And watch out for the yellow OFF switch. Run over it and the baddles will grind to a standstill for a few seconds.

The final new object is the thumbs-up sign. When you run over one all the bombs disappear.

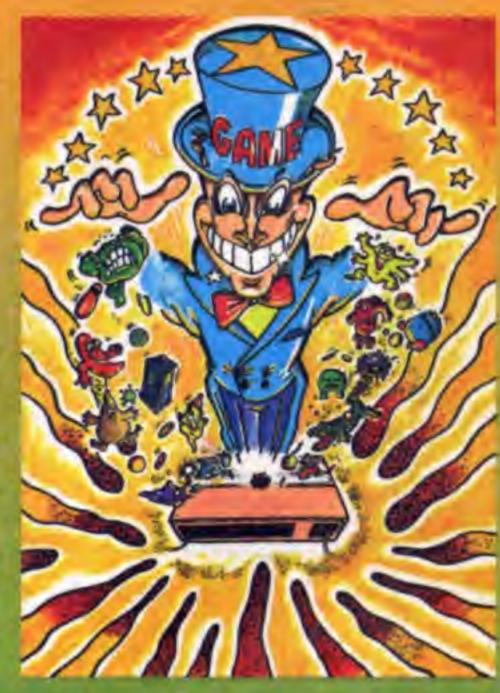
Before adding the new features to your existing program you need to renumber it. How you do this is explained on the right. Then just type in the listing and your program will be modified automatically.

The lines printed in red are new ones. Blue indicates lines altered. And if you type in the line numbers shown in orange these old lines will be removed.

The green areas show you all the new procedures and the REM lines explain what they do.

When you've made these changes save the game using a different name to the one you used before.

Your game will now have all the extra features we've described. Enjoy playing until next month when we'll show how to give your game a final polish.





Renumbering last month's program

Here's how to renumber last month's program ready to enter this month's extra bits:

- LOAD last month's program
- Type RENUMBER and press Return
- SAVE the renumbered program (use a different name)
- Type DELETE 10,1840 and press Return so you're left with just the DATA lines.
- Type RENUMBER 8000, (note the comma) and press Return. This renumbers the data lines so they can stay at the end of the program.
- Save the data lines to tape or disc using the following commands:

*SPOOL DATA

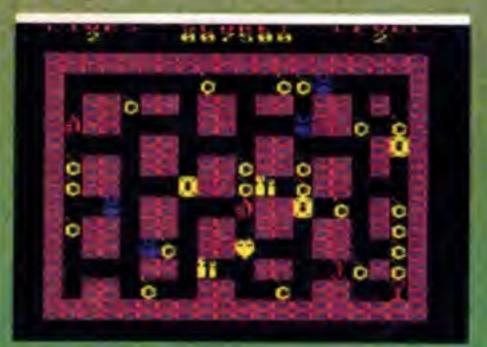
After the lines have listed key:

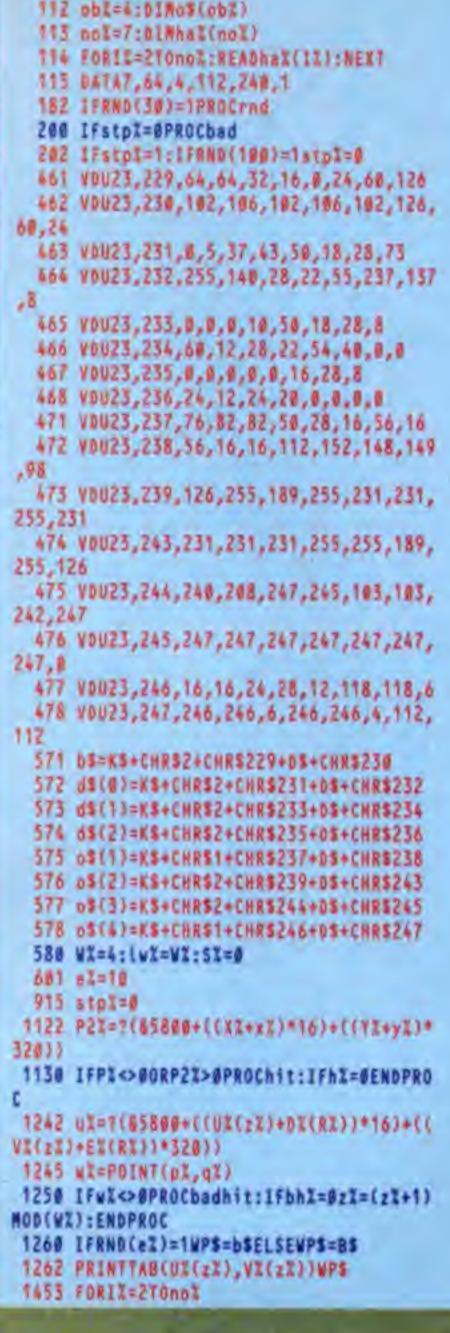
*SPOOL

- LOAD the renumbered program that you saved a few minutes ago.
- Delete the existing data lines by typing DELETE 1850, (note the comma).
- Put the renumbered data lines (the ones you saved using *SPOOL) on the end of the program by entering:

*EXEC DATA

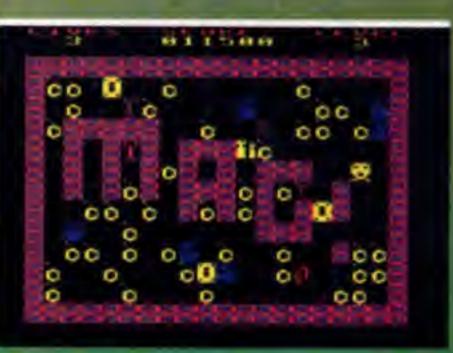
• LIST the program to check that the main part is numbered from 10 to 1840 and the data is from 8000 upwards. If it is, SAVE it. If not, try again - taking care to follow these instructions exactly.





90 DIMUX(12), VX(12)

111 DIMBS(2)





THE OBJECTS	CLOCK	BOMB	BONUS	SWITCH		THUMBSup
Made from characters	227 and 228	229 and 230	237 and 238	239 and 243	244 and 245	246 and 247
You	Collect them	Die on contact	Get bonus	Turn off baddies	Erase them	Remove bombs
Baddies	Move them	Move them.	Erase them	Erase them	Clone Iwa more	Erase them



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You can find out how to join the Club on Page 32 - and about all the other goodies you can get with it.

However, if you only want Turtle Logo we'll send it to you for just £1 if you complete and return the coupon below

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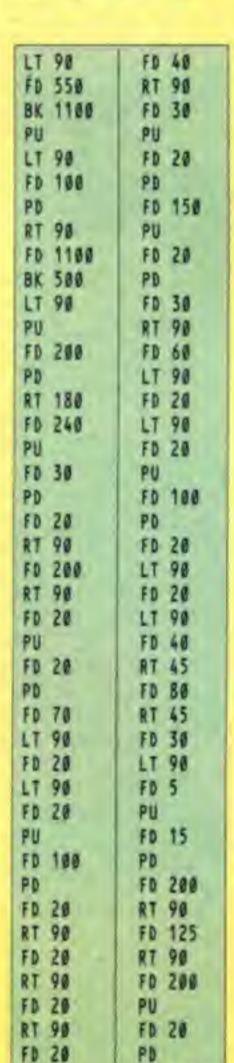
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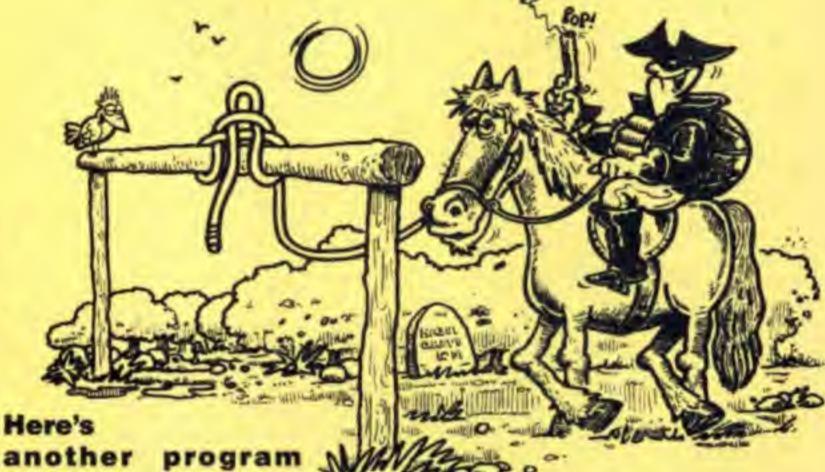
Logo Offer Let's Compute! Europa House Adlington Park Macclesfield SK10 5NY

it is!



FD 200

LT 90



another written the

turtle's favourite language, Logo. Unlike the knot patterns in previous issues of Let's Compute! this one draws a REAL knot.

It creates a Highwayman's Hitch. That's the kind of knot used for tying up horses or boats.

It was sent in by Neil Melville (10) of Maidstone, Kent. Uses only very simple commands.

But it shows how, with just one or two of the Logo instructions and a bit of patience you can create real diagrams.

To try this program out yourself you first need to run the Logo Language.

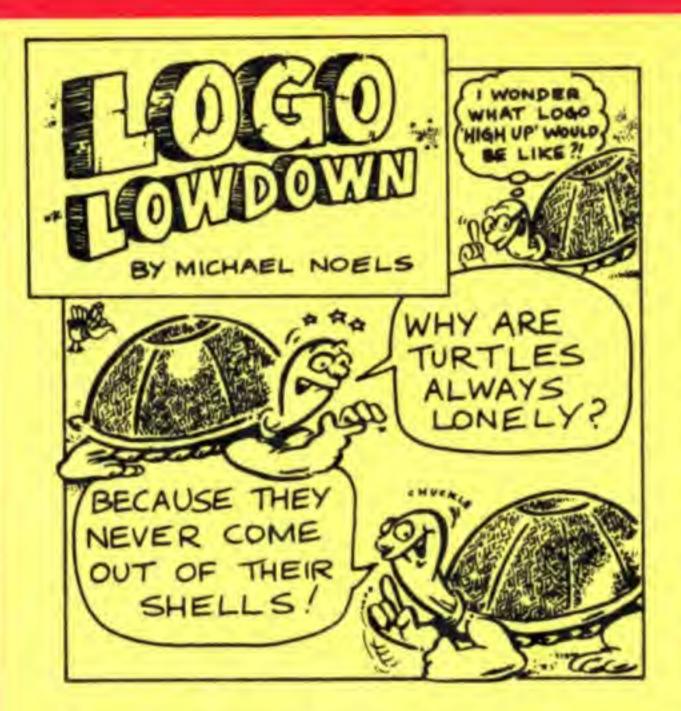
If you haven't got it and you're using an Acorn computer the Let's Compute! Turtle Logo is an ideal starting point - see the offer on the left.

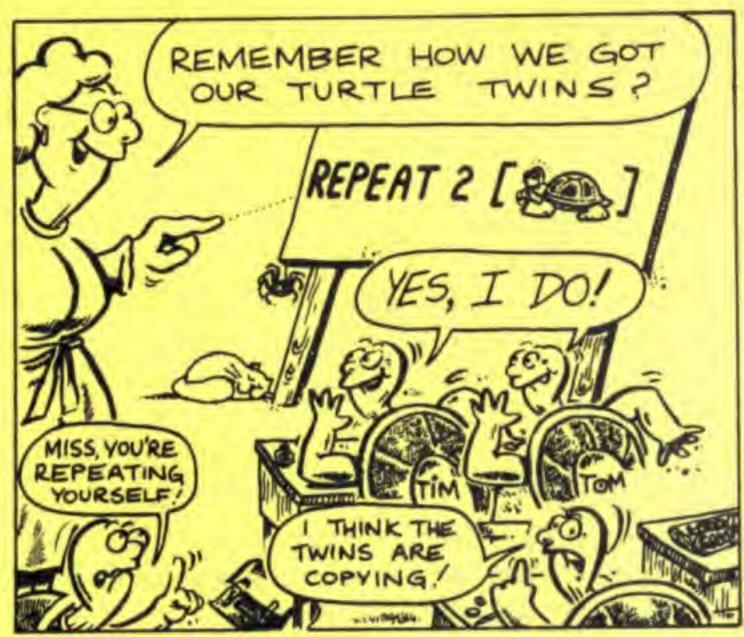
Then just type in the instructions and watch the knot draw move by move. If you already know how to define procedures you can put all the instructions in one. Then you can call it every time you want to draw the knot.

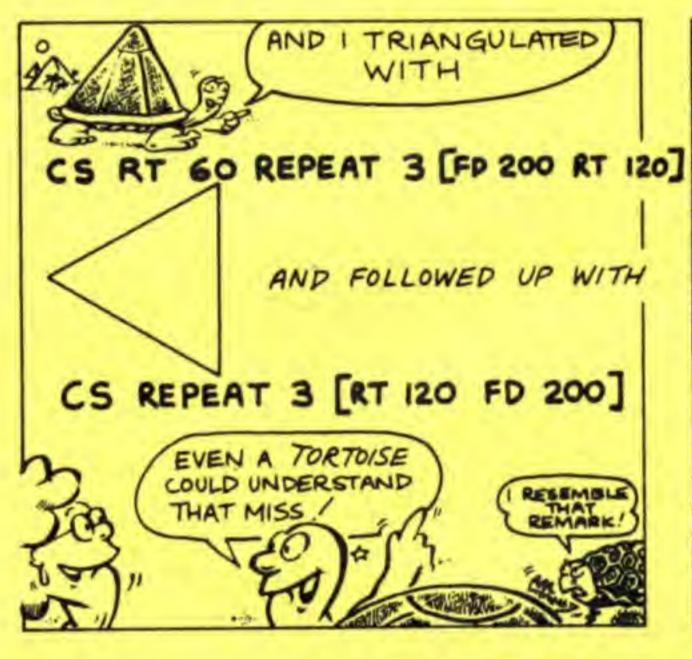
If you don't know how to define procedures, keep reading Logo Lowdown. You soon will.

If you can draw a knot - or anything else - in Logo let us see it. Send us a listing if you have a printer and also send us the program on tape or disc. Also, let us know which version of Logo you used.

Send it to Let's Compute! Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. There's a super Let's Compute! baseball cap for the writer of every one we print.

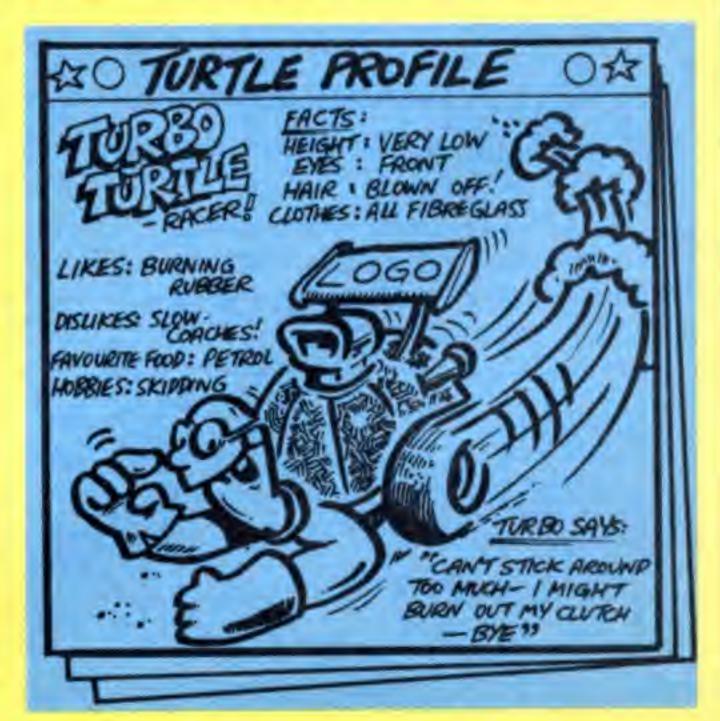


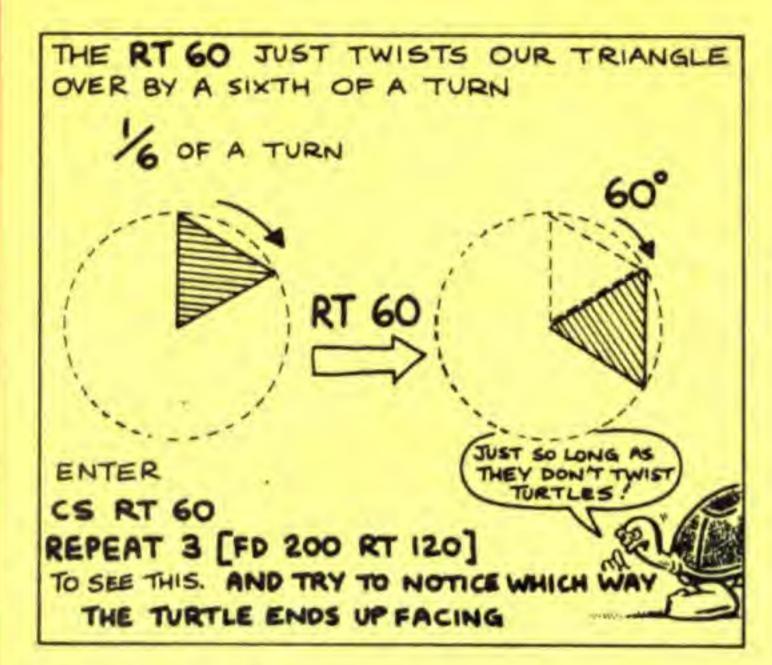


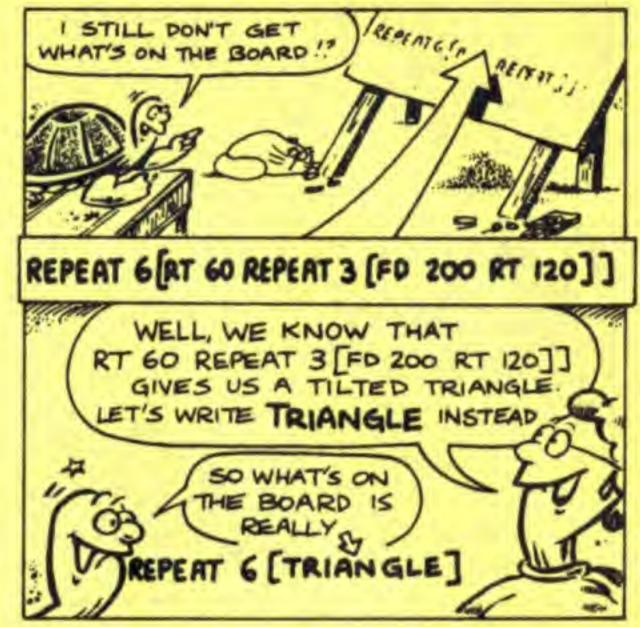


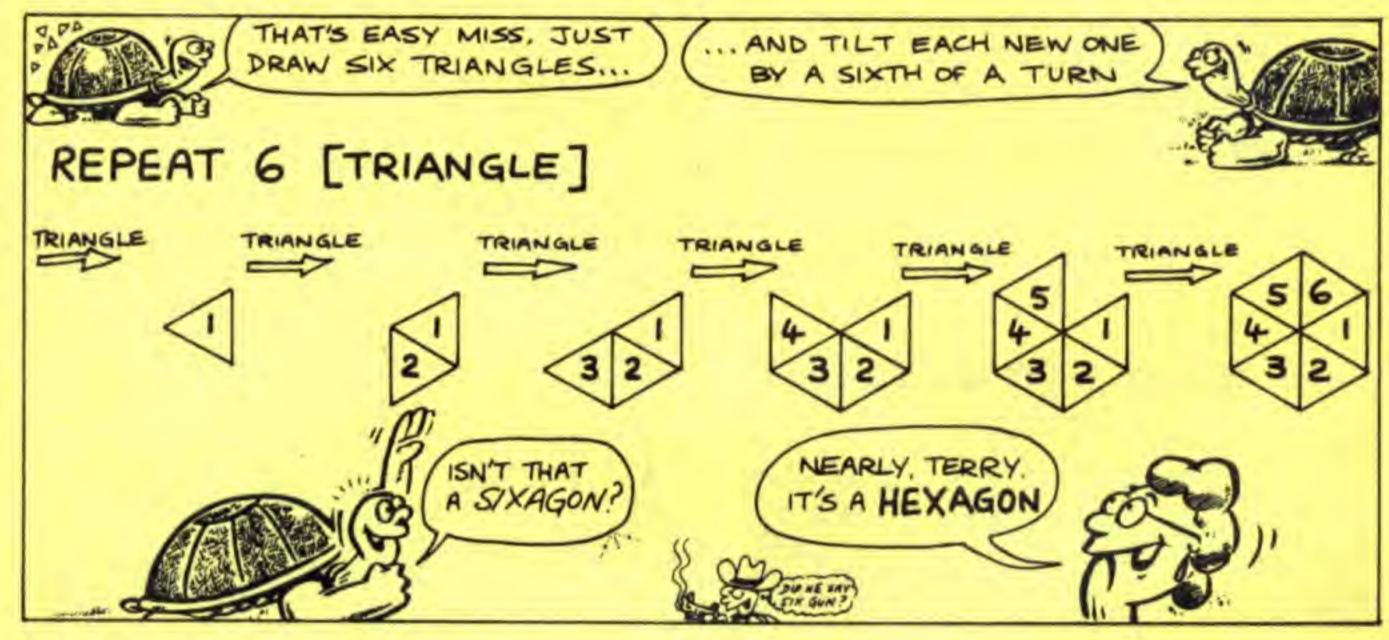


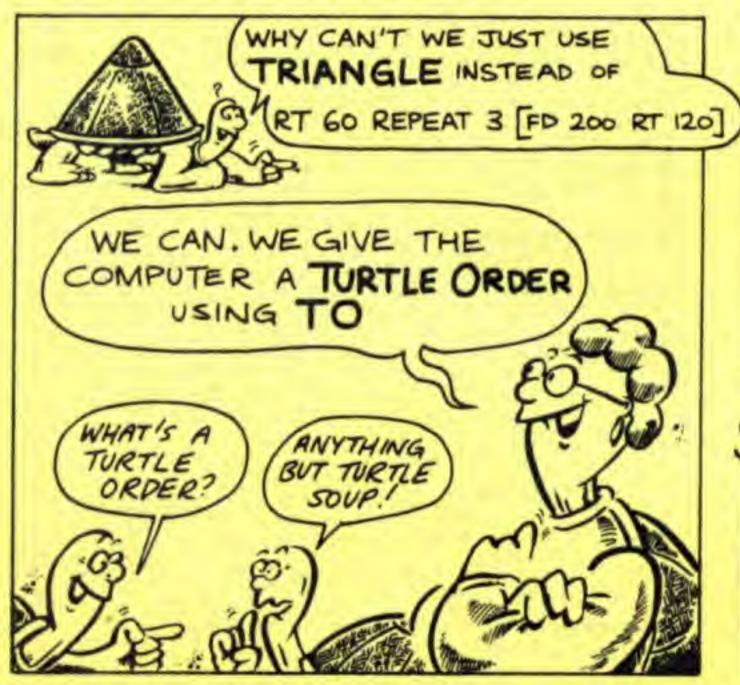


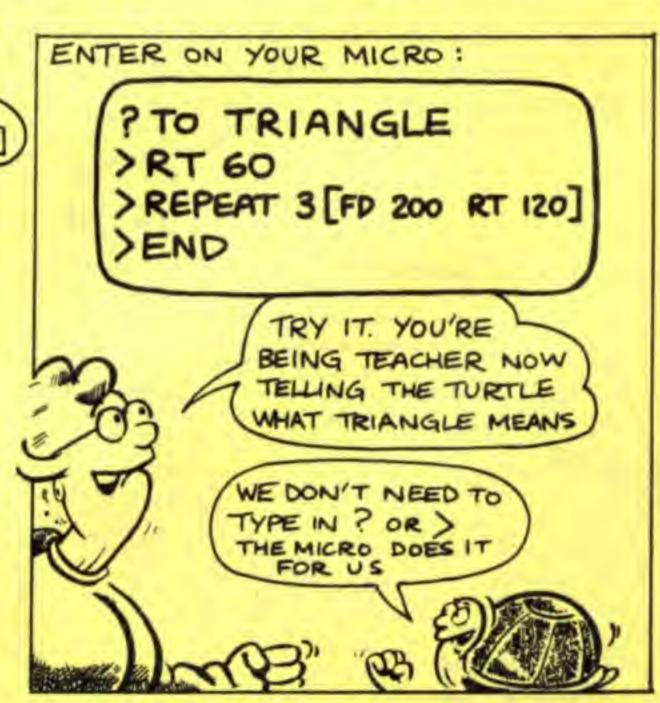


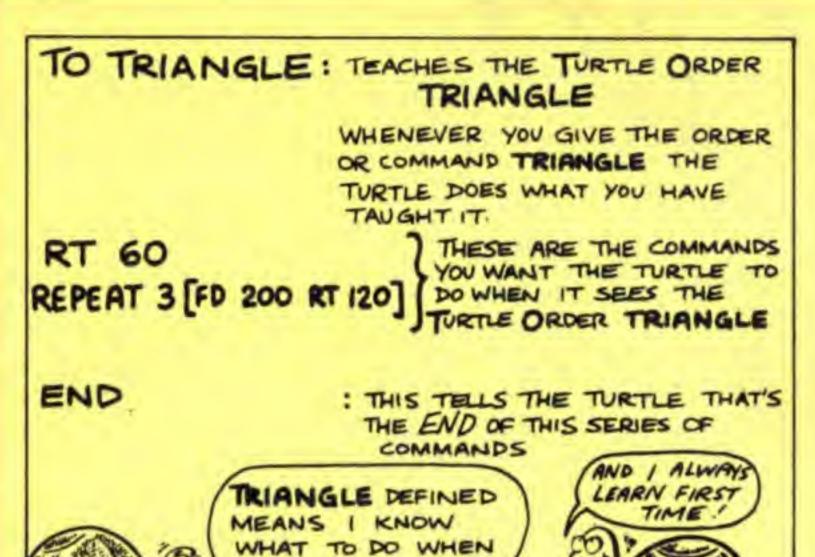


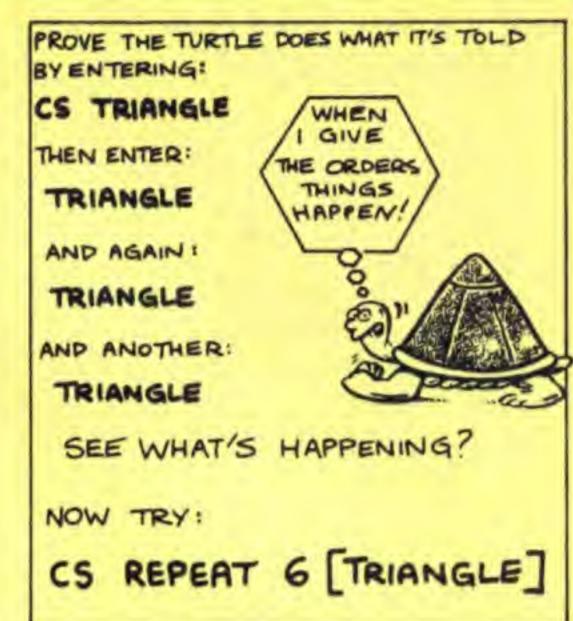






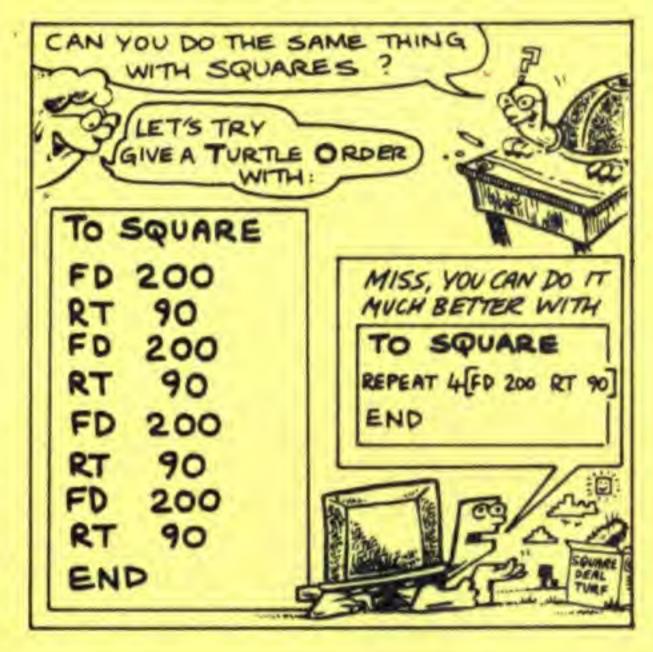


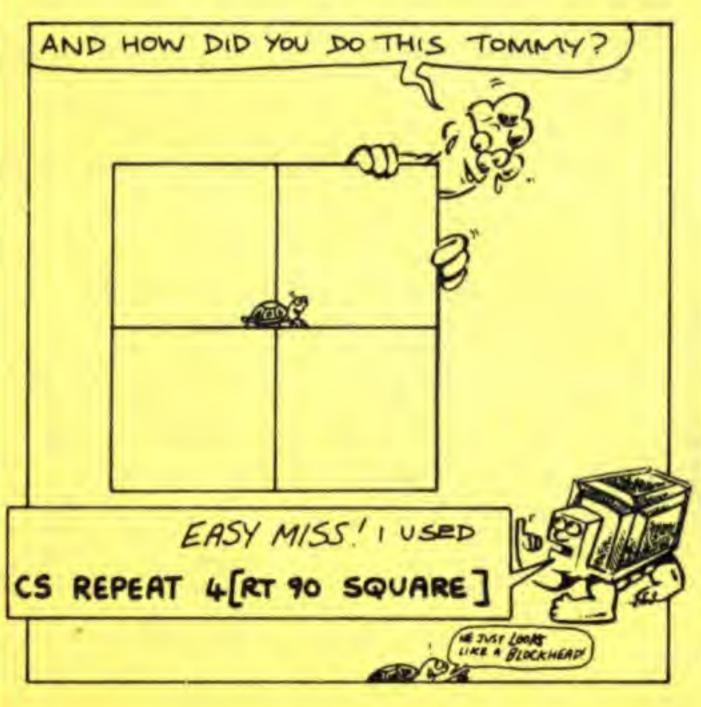






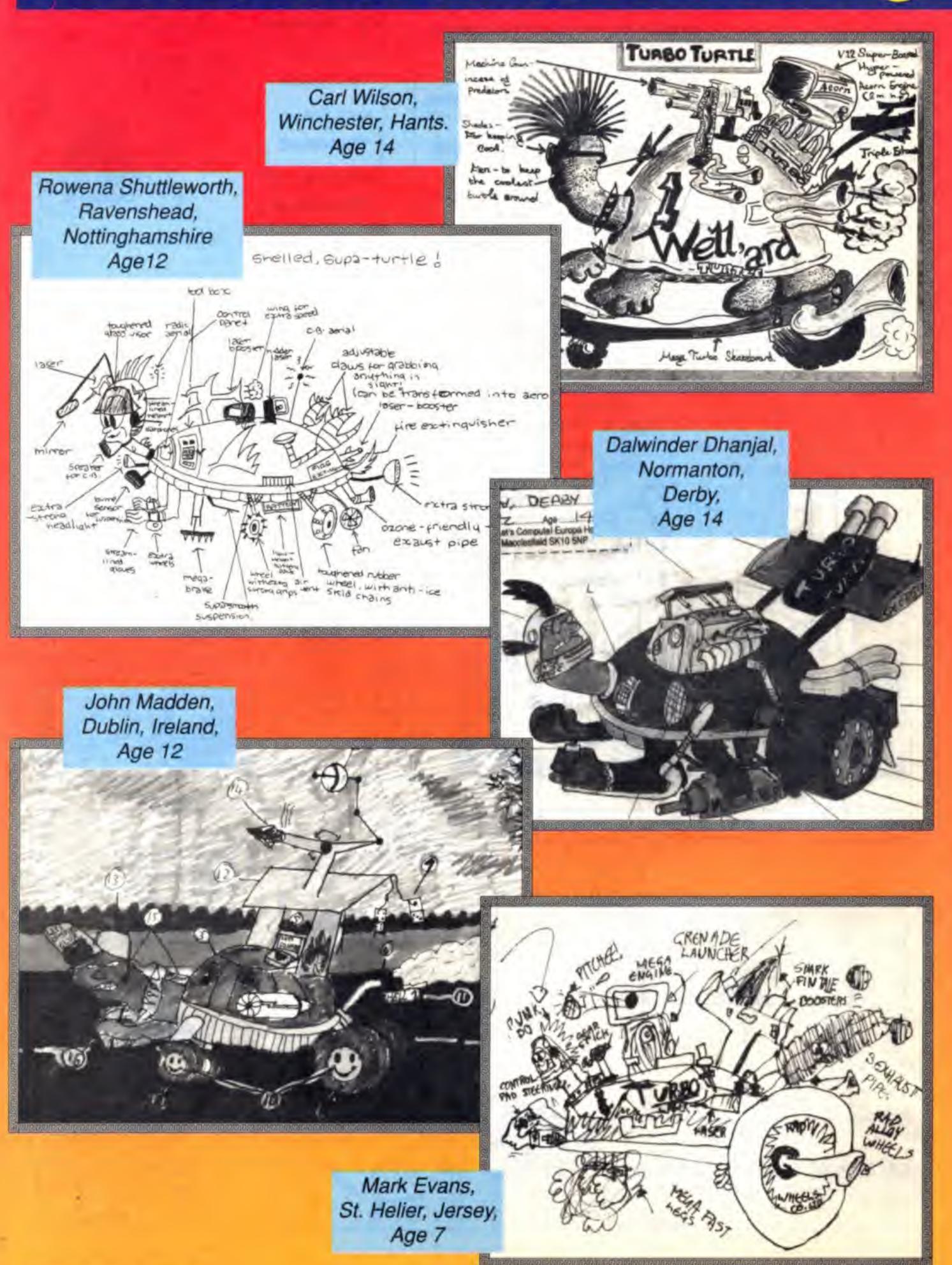
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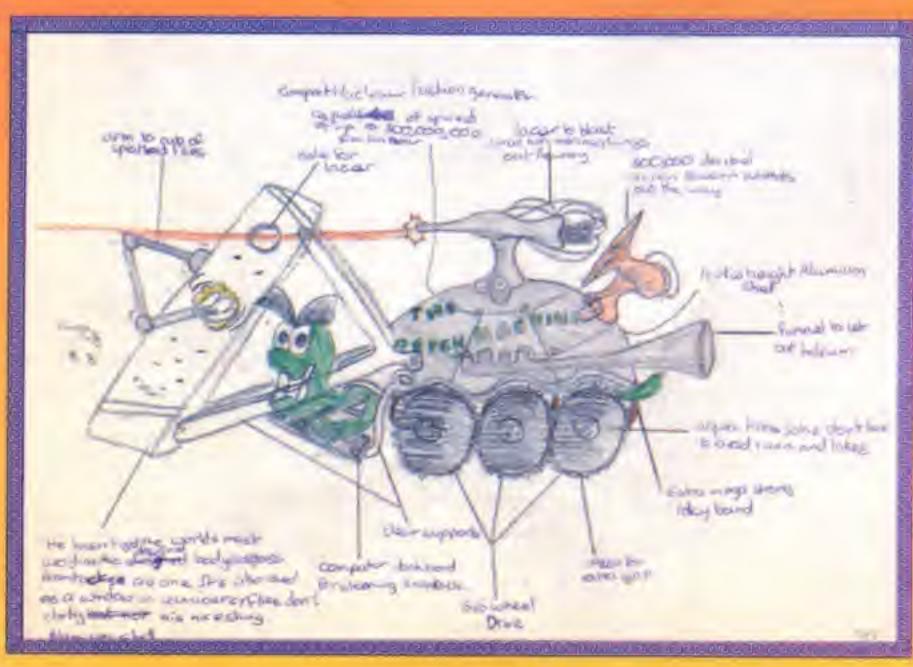
Results of Mike Goldberg's



'Design a Turtle' Challenge

THE WINTER!





The turtle invasion has ended! Over the last couple of months the Let's Compute! office has been flooded out with the creatures – all because ace artist Mike Goldberg challenged you to design a Supa Turbo Turtle.

- Pictured left is the winner a magnificent effort from Neil Giggins (13) from Towcester, Northants. Mike's worked his magic on Neil's design and produced the stunning painting above. It will be given a fab frame before being handed over to Neil.
- Among its many features are a 300,000 decibel siren to warn animals out of the way, an arm to rub off splatted flies and a laser to blast non-moving objects to smithereens. This six wheel drive creature with spiked tyres has been designed to reach incredibly high speeds.
- The five runners-up whose turtles are pictured opposite will each receive Let's Compute! baseball caps.

There's another Mike Goldberg challenge on Page 43!



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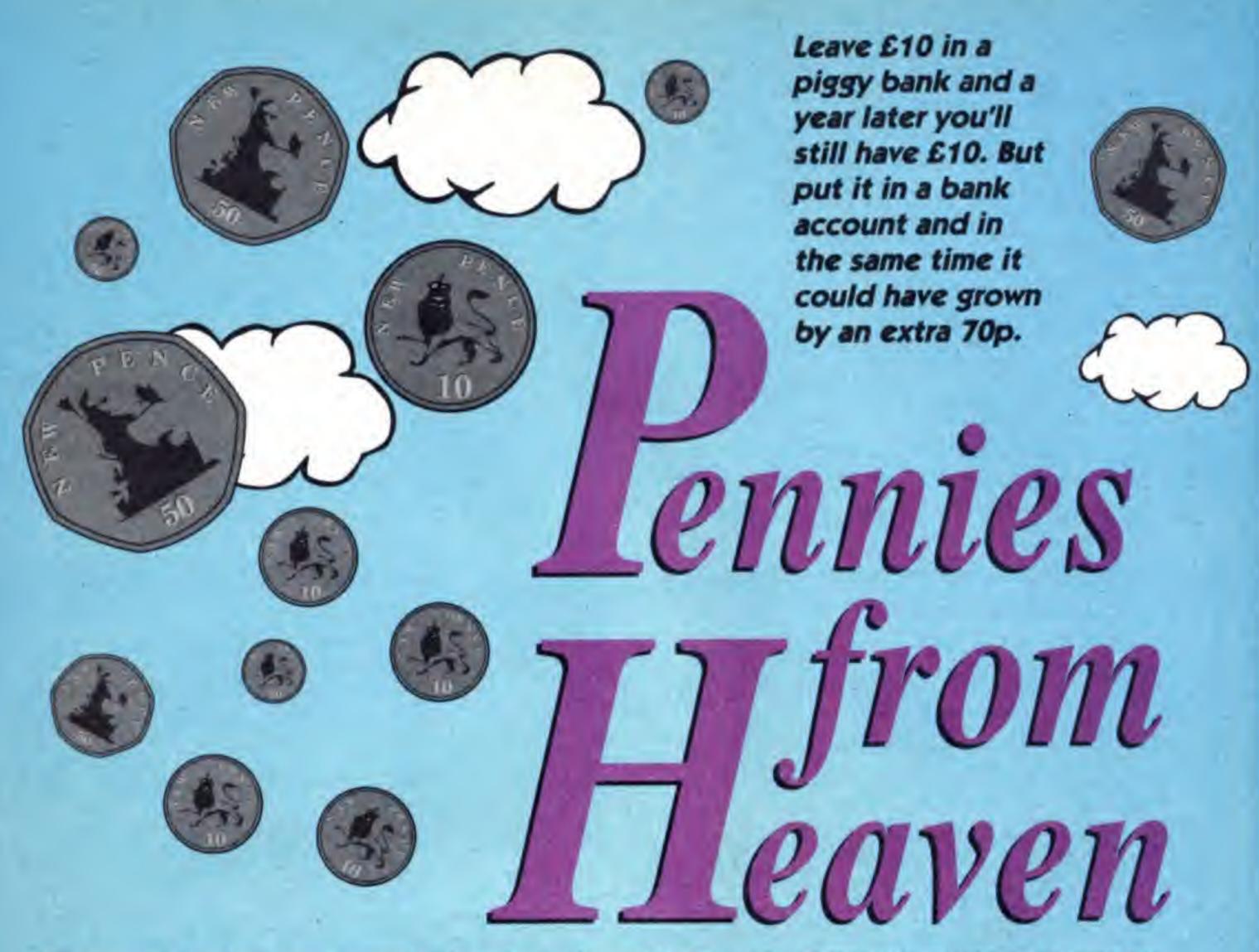
Things To De With Numbers

Lets Spell At Home (English)

Lots Spail At The Shape (English)

Pezzie Bank (Inc.

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This program teaches your computer how to work out your bank interest.

And shows you how that nestegg will grow and grow.

How much you can make depends on two things: The present interest rate - which can change at any time. And how long you leave your money in the bank.

To find out how much interest you're earning just answer the simple questions your computer will ask you. Have your bank book in front of you. You'll need to tell the computer about each time you put money in or took some out.

First you'll be asked to give the date you did this.

Type it in as three numbers, separated by commas.

So, November 5 this year would be entered as:

5,11,90

Then you need to say how much you put in or took out. If you took money out, put a minus (-) in front of the number you type in.

Next, tell the program what the interest rate was at the time. You're then asked if you want to enter any more. You can reply Y or N.

If you answer Y you'll get the same questions again. Like this, you can make as many entries as are in your bank book. If you answer N you'll be asked for today's date.

Once you've typed this in, you'll be told what interest you're now due.

```
10 REM Interest
  20 REM by Ken Hughes
  30 REM (c)Let's Compute!
   40 DIM D(100)
  50 DIM M(100)
  68 DIM Y(188)
   70 DIM C(100)
  80 DIM R(100)
  90 CLS
  100 LET N=0
  110 LET N=N+1
 120 INPUT "What is the entry date (d,m
,y)";D(N),M(N),Y(N)
 130 INPUT "How much"; C(N)
  140 INPUT "What interest rate"; R(N)
  150 LET R(N)=R(N)/100/365
  160 INPUT"Do you want to enter more (Y
/N)";AS
  170 IF AS="y" OR AS="Y" THEN GOTO 110
  180 IF AS<>"n" AND AS<>"N" THEN GOTO 1
```

```
198 IF Y(1)<188 THEN Y(1)=Y(1)+1988
 200 LET N=N+1
 210 INPUT"Enter today's date: d,m,y ";
D(N), M(N), Y(N)
 220 LET TBAL=0
 230 FOR M = 2 TO N
 248 IF Y(M)<180 THEN Y(M)=Y(M)+1988
  250 LET T1=D(M-1)+(M(M-1)*30.5)+(Y(M-1
)*12*30.51
 260 LET T2=D(M)+(M(M)*30.5)+(Y(M)*12*3
0.5)
  270 TEMPDATE=T2-T1
  280 LET TBAL=TBAL+C(M-1)
 290 LET TBAL=TBAL+(TBAL*R(M-1)*TEMPDAT
  300 NEXT M
 310 LET TBAL=INT(TBAL*100)
  320 LET TBAL=TBAL/100
  330 PRINT:PRINT"You now have: "; TBAL
```

Averaging it out

To keep the listing short we've told your computer each month has 30.5 days rather than 28, 29, 30 or 31. This means that the results are not quite accurate – but not that far out.

IS YOUR COMPUTER HERE

C64/128: Change line 90 to: 90 PRINT CHR\$(147)

ST (Stos) Amiga (Amos): Put # after all the variable names that don't end in \$. So D(100) becomes D#(100), TBAL becomes TBAL# and so on.

THE LISTING WORKS AS IT IS ON OTHER MICROS



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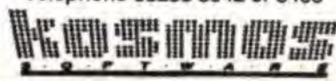
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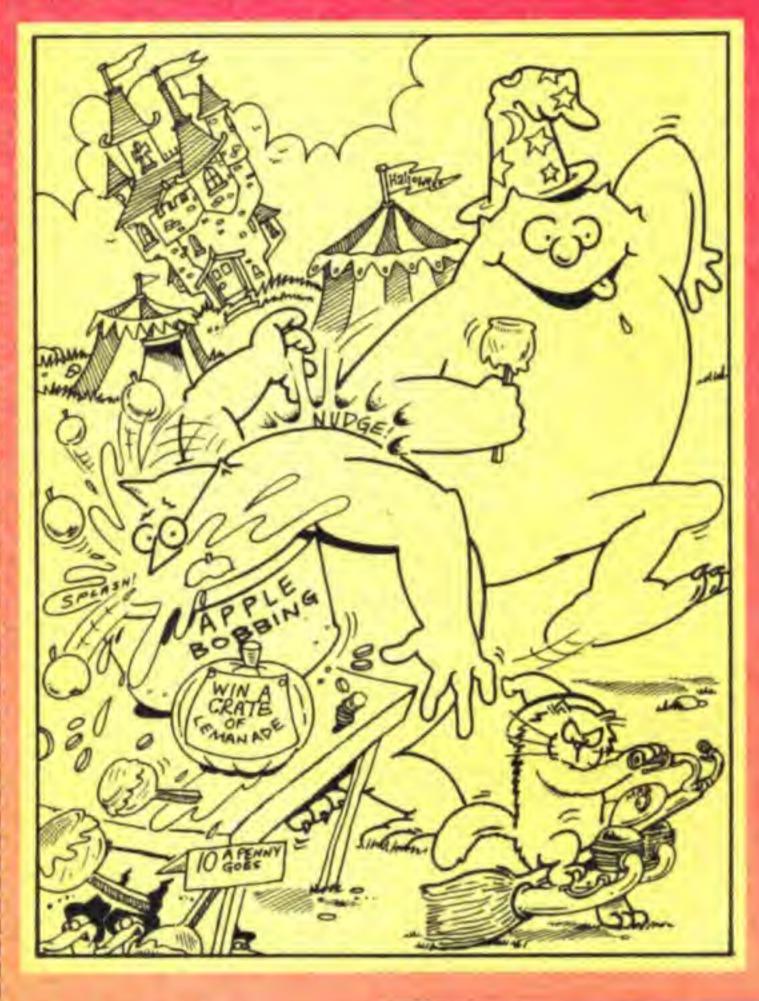


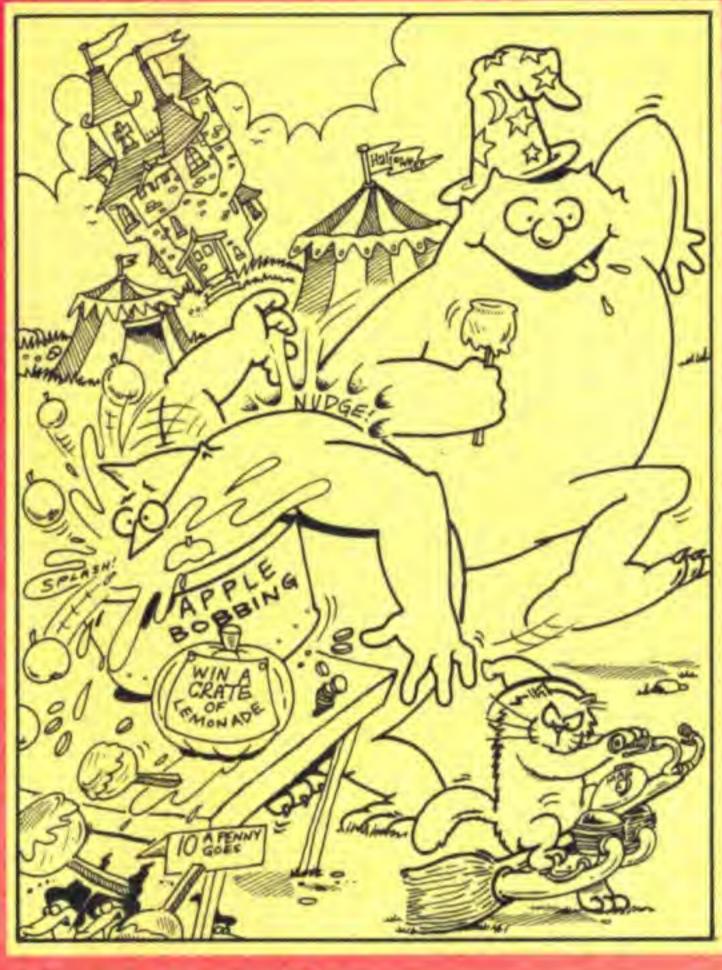




The Mike Goldberg challenge!

Can YOU spot the difference?





How to enter

Study these two pictures. There are not exactly the same. On the right-hand picture circle all the differences you can spot.

When you've found them all – and don't stop at 10! – fill in the entry form below. Then just cut out (or photocopy) this page and send it in before October 31.

Win

hand – painted jigsaw. It was specially made by cartoonist Mike Goldberg, the creator of Rom and Ram, and will be personalised with the winner's name.



ENTRY FORM

LET'S COMPUTE! October 1990 43



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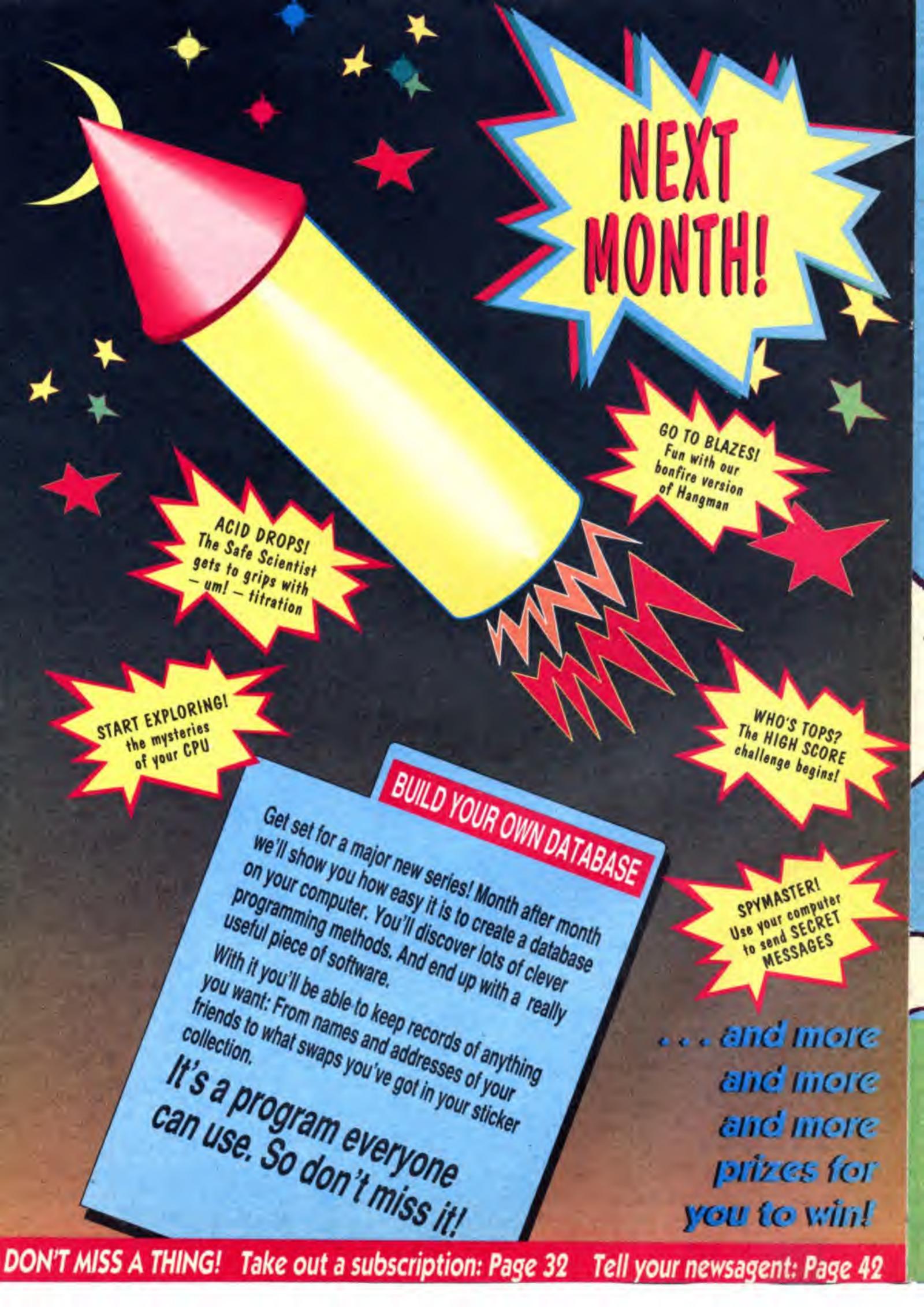




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